Tamil TIMES

75p

Vol VIII No.9 10 ISSN 0266-4488 SEPTEMBER 1989

Sri Lanka's New Dimension Of Horror

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Tamil TIMES
ISSN 0266-4488
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION
UK/India/Sri Lanka. . . £10/US$20
All other countries. . . £15/US$30
Published monthly by
TAMIL TIMES LTD
P.O. BOX 121
SUTTON, SURREY SM1 3 TD
UNITED KINGDOM
Phone: 01-644 0972
Typeset & printed by Set Line Data Ltd, Union Street, SE1.

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SRI LANKA'S NEW DIMENSION OF HORROR

Once upon a time Sri Lanka was proudly presented as the pearl of the Indian ocean. Nature made the island a true paradise. Today it is neither a pearl nor a paradise. It has been converted into an insufferable Hell on earth for its entire population and a graveyard for thousands. The daily death toll by deliberate politically motivated violence is by far the highest for any country in the world today. The indiscriminate killing and counter-killing by the JVP on the one hand and the security forces and associated death squads on the other match each other for their sheer barbarous brutality. The escalating daily body count has turned this once idyllic island under the sun into an island of sudden death.

During the third week of last month, the Sri Lankan Justice Minister informed parliament that 79 politicians and 762 civilians had been killed by the JVP. During this period, it had also murdered 31 police officers and 18 members of the armed forces. The death toll of 890 was ninety per cent up on the 472 toll for the previous month, according to the Minister. What the Minister studiously avoided mentioning was the toll of the scores of people summarily executed daily by the security forces whose dead bodies were unceremoniously dumped into the sea or rivers, or burned on hastily constructed pyres of rubber tyres. Human rights organisations have asserted that the true death toll for August and the first three weeks of September was more near the 3000 mark.

What was started by the JVP as an anti-government campaign has now turned into a full scale private dirty war between the armed and police forces and the JVP. The agony of Sri Lanka reached a new dimension of horror with the JVP's ultimatum to kill the family members of service and police personnel unless they threw away their uniforms and deserted their posts by August 20. In the light of this threat, a joint communique issued by the Service Commanders and the Inspector General of Police on 19 August stated: 'Having failed in their appeal to the security forces and the Police to join their ranks, subversives now in desperation are threatening their families if they do not resign. The cowardly act of harming innocent people will not be condoned. Security forces and the police who are sacrificing their lives to safeguard the peace-loving will do their duty'. That was an official response. Unofficially, sections of the security forces in concert with fraternal death squads had other plans in mind. Enormous yellow and black wall posters began to appear all over the capital and other provincial towns. They showed a grim figure in black, and under it was a retaliatory threat aimed at the JVP which read: 'For every army family killed, 12 JVP families will die'. Ever since, the threat and the counter-threat have been ruthlessly carried out by both sides with brutal vengeance. Hundreds of homes belonging to service and police personnel have been set on fire, and a considerable number of their family members, including women and children, have been killed by the JVP. In what are described as pre-emptive strikes and retaliatory actions, the security forces in collusion with anti-JVP death squads, as a daily routine, have killed hundreds of persons suspected of being JVP family members, and set fire to a large number of their homes. The revolting spectacle of floating corpses slowly drifting along rivers finding their way to the sea around the southern coast, the sight of mutilated and partially burnt bodies by the roadside, and of bodies smouldering in rubber-tyre-pyres in various parts of the country have become a familiar feature of the landscape of present day Sri Lanka. Spotting dead bodies floating in rivers has developed into a morbid pastime for children standing on bridges!

In one instance alone, in retaliation to the killing of 15 family members of three soldiers in the village of Menikhinna in the central Kandy district, gunmen in military-style uniforms repeatedly raided three villages, namely Menikhinna, Kundasala and Arangala in the same district which left 150 people, including women and children, dead and over 70 homes reduced to ashes. The Deputy Inspector General of Police for the area unhesitatingly admitted: 'These killings came after the raids by subversives on the homes of families of security service personnel and I can only presume that these are retaliatory attacks'.

In this island, which is claimed to have been blessed three times with personal visits by The Buddha himself, even Buddhist priests are not spared. Among those killed by the JVP were two prominent monks in their late seventies who were alleged to have made pro-government statements. A number of younger monks with alleged JVP sympathies have fallen victims at the hands of the security forces. In one case, men in uniform went to a temple in Dedigama officiated by a senior buddhist monk, strapped around him a belt of grenades which were then detonated. When the Sri Lankan security forces were rampaging through the Tamil areas in past years killing and maiming the innocents and the guilty alike in the course of their 'war to save the motherland for Sinhala-Buddhists', the majority of the Buddhist clergy used to invoke the blessing of the Triple Gem upon the members of the security forces to ensure success. Today the same security forces are engaged in a dirtier war in which members of the Buddhist clergy themselves are falling victims!

Enforced closure of all universities (except in the north and east) has continued for nearly two years. Two University Vice Chancellors have been gunned down in their offices in recent months allegedly by the JVP. Three human rights lawyers have been killed by pro-government death squads. The JVP's campaign of murder and arson continues with unmitigated brutality in the name of patriotism of the Pol Pot variety. The security forces in concert with death squads operating under various labels such as Black Cats, Yellow Cats, Scorpions, Black Panthers, Green Tigers, Eagles, Peoples Revolutionary Red Army (PRRA) etc. are also continuing with their dirty war of death and destruction in the name of law and order in a country where there is neither law nor order. Caught up in the crossfire of these competing forces of violence are the innocent and defenceless people crying out for a respite as Ranasinghe Premadasa precariously clings on to his beleaguered presidency, and in the meantime the country is inexorably and rapidly sliding towards anarchy and disintegration.

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JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA ON THE 18TH OF SEPTEMBER, 1989

1. In pursuance of the Communique signed in Colombo on the 28th July, 1989, by Shri L.L. Mehrotra, the High Commissioner of India, and Mr. Bernard Tilakaratna, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka, three rounds of consultation were held by the two Governments. A Sri Lankan delegation, led by the Foreign Minister Hon. Ranjan Wijeratne, visited India from the 29th July to 4th August, 1989. Mr Bradman Weerakoon, Special Envoy of His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka, held further discussions in New Delhi from the 15th to the 17th August, 1989. A final round of talks was held between His Excellency Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, and Hon. Ranjan Wijeratne, Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, during their visit to Belgrade from 4th to 7th September, 1989.

2. The talks were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. They covered bilateral issues, including the de-induction of the remaining IPKF contingents in Sri Lanka, the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement and measures to ensure the safety and security of all communities of the North-Eastern Province of Sri Lanka.

3. The implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement was reviewed in depth by the two sides. The Sri Lankan side briefed the Indian side on the progress made and the further steps taken by them for the expeditious implementation of the devolution process, such as establishing of the Provincial Police Force and facilitating the effective functioning of the North-Eastern Provincial Council and the establishment of an adequate administrative structure for that purpose. The Sri Lankan side also informed the Indian side that it would institute all measures to strengthen the civil administration as early as possible which would ensure peace and normalcy in the North-Eastern Province.

4. The Sri Lankan side informed the Indian side of their decision to set up a Peace Committee on the 20th of September, 1989, to afford an opportunity to all political and ethnic groups in the North-Eastern Province to come together to settle their differences through a process of consultation, compromise and consensus and to bring all groups into the democratic process, thereby ending violence and improving conditions for the physical safety and security of all communities. This would help restore normalcy, and contribute to the effective functioning of the North-Eastern Provincial Council. The first meeting of the Peace Committee will be held within three weeks of the setting up of this Committee. This decision was welcomed by the Indian side.

5. It was decided to set up a Security Coordination Group comprising the Sri Lankan Minister of State for Defence, the Chief Minister of the North-Eastern Province, the Sri Lankan Defence Secretary and the GOC of the IPKF, with a view to avoiding any adverse impact on the law and order situation in the North-Eastern Province and to suggest measures to ensure the safety and security in the North-Eastern Province as the phased de-induction of the IPKF and the strengthening of the civilian administration of the North-Eastern Province of Sri Lanka proceeds. This Group will keep in view the recommendations of the Peace Committee relating to the safety and security of the inhabitants of the North-Eastern Province.

6. In view of the above, the process of de-induction of the IPKF, which recommenced on 29th July, 1989, will be continued on an expeditious schedule. All efforts will be made to accelerate the de-induction of the IPKF to complete de-induction by 31st December, 1989.

7. The Indian side stated that the suspension of offensive military operations by the IPKF will come into effect at 0600 hours on the 20th of September, 1989. An Observer Group consisting of the Sri Lanka Army Commander and the GOC of the IPKF will report any violations of the cessation of hostilities and immediate consequential action taken and recommend further remedial action, to His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka.

COLOMBO NEWSLETTER

IPKF TO PULLOUT BY END OF DECEMBER

There was a time, not long ago, when New Delhi's mediation or intervention was an essential prerequisite for any contact to be established or negotiations to take place between the Colombo government and the Tamil militant groups. Following a sharp shift in LTTE's approach and dealings with the Premadasa government and their ongoing talks, it is the Sri Lankan government which persisted in putting forward the LTTE's case for a cessation of offensive operations by the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) against the LTTE.

It is an irony but true that IPKF's announcement of the cessation of offensive operations against the LTTE with effect from 6am on 20 September, albeit being part of a comprehensive agreement between India and Sri Lanka (see box on this page), is the product of the efforts by the Colombo government. This in itself not only bespeaks about the great divide that separates the Indian government and its erstwhile protegees, but also reflects the rather unexpected close relationship that has developed between the Premadasa government and LTTE.

The agreement to withdraw the IPKF by 31 December puts paid to the well orchestrated assertion that India will never pull out its troops from the island because of its regional hegomonistic ambitions. Months before the 18 September agreement, a senior Indian diplomat told this correspondent: 'We have been accused of having intervened in Sri Lanka to secure our interests; yes our interest was a stable Sri Lanka. An unstable Sri Lanka was not in the interest of India. But we also wanted to help the Tamils who came to India in their thousands as refugees due to violence and discrimination. We also wanted to help the Sri Lanka government to arrive at a reasonable solution to the ethnic problem. we have spent billions of rupees in this endeavour. Over a thousand of our men have lost their lives. Now some Tamils, particularly the LTTE, want the IPKF to be withdrawn; the Sinhalese also want them to leave and the Sri Lankan government too wants us to withdraw. Our people in India too do not want our army to lose any more lives. We will withdraw, but you can be sure of one thing – we will never come a second time round'.

The settlement on the substantial issues of the latest agreement would appear to have been arrived at during the Non Aligned summit in Belgrade when the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne had several rounds of talks with senior Indian officials and Rajiv Ghandi between 4 and 7 September. In fact at his New Delhi airport press conference on 8 September on his return from the summit, Rajiv Gandhi said, 'We had quite extensive talks at various levels and have come to what we feel is a good agreement'. The delay in the announcement of the agreement was due to the need of the Sri Lanka government to obtain 'clearance' from the LTTE and its promise to participate in the proposed arrangements. It is learnt that a senior cabinet minister had discussions with a leading LTTE spokesman in London in the course of which the LTTE was persuaded to accept the arrangements. So much so, that a confident Bradman Weerakoon,

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the Special Advisor to President Premadasa, replied to a question put to him at a press conference in Colombo as to whether the LTTE would be prepared to come into the arrangements being discusssed between the two governments in the following terms: 'A harmonious relationship has been brought about by the ongoing discussions and the expectation of the Sri Lankan goverment is that there will be no problems'.

There are four elements of the 18 September agreement. Firstly, the setting up of a Peace Committee on 20 September which President Premadasa has already established comprising 17 political parties and groups. The significance of this Committee is that rival Tamil militant groups which had hitherto been in a state of armed conflict will sit together 'to settle their differences through a process of consultation, compromise and consensus and to bring all groups into the democratic process, thereby ending violence and improving conditions for physical safety and security'. The Peace Committee is also expected to 'help restore normalcy, and contribute to the effective functioning of the North-Eastern Provincial Council'.

Secondly a Security Coordinating Group is to be set up comprising the Sri Lankan Minister of State for Defence, The Chief Minister of the North-East Provincial Council, the Sri Lankan Defence Secretary and the General Overall Commander of the IPKF. This Group is to ensure that any adverse impact on the law and order situation in the North-East is avoided and to suggest measures for the safety and security in the North-East as the phased de-induction of the IPKF and the strengthening of the civilian administration proceeds.

Thirdly, in consideration of the first and second elements, the de-induction of the IPKF would continue to be expedited and all efforts would be made to complete the de-induction by 31 December.

The fourth element is the cessation of offensive operations by the IPKF to begin at 6am on 20 September and the setting up of an Observer Group of the Sri Lankan Army Commander and the GOC of the IPKF to report on any violations of cessation of hostilities and to take or recommend remedial action.

Political observers believe that the latest agreement between Colombo and New Delhi provides a framework, for the first time since October 1987, for the creation of conditions, if not of immediate peace, at least of an absence of fighting and confrontation. The return of peace and normalcy in the long term will depend on the answers to two important questions: will a Peace Committee comprising seventeen political parties and groups with varying policy stances on basic issues be able to come up with acceptable solutions? Can the LTTE and its rival Tamil militant groups agree to eschew the use of violence against each other and seek to resolve their differences by negotiations?

OPPOSITION PARTIES CALL FOR 'PROVISIONAL GOVT'

On August 26, five opposition parties in Parliament ie. SLFP, USA, EPRLF, SLMC, and MEP have together appealed for peace and called upon 'all groups to reject violence as a method of conflict resolution' and proposed the formation of 'a Provisional Government by Parliament to run the country'.

The statement said: 'As the Presidential form of Government has totally failed, we propose that a Provisional Government be formed by Parliament to run the country. Constitutional reforms should be implemented. The Executive Presidency should be replaced with a Prime Minister responsible to parliament. Free and fair elections will follow.

'The forces not represented in Parliament must be included in this process by means of consultation.

'But peace must first be established in our villages and our towns must begin to bustle. Our children must breathe the air of freedom and our schools and universities must once more become the seats of learning.

'We urge all persons engaged in violence to give it up and to contribute towards making these proposals workable. We urge our security forces to act using maximum restraint, mindful of their national obligations.

'In this most crucial phase in our history, let us not forget that we are all sons and daughters of one nation and work tirelessly for the restoration of peace and democracy'.

LAWYER GUNNED DOWN

Kanchana Abayapala, a 28 year old lawyer who lived with his parents, was shot dead by an unidentified gunman at their residence at Anderson Flats in Narhenpita in Colombo on 28 August.

On the day of the murder, there was a knock on the door at about 6.45pm. Mr. Abeyapala's mother peeped out through the louvres and inquired as to who was at the door. The visitor identified himself as Seneviratne from Vidyodaya campus and wished to meet 'Kanchana Mahataya'. As Kanchana went up to the door and opened it, he was shot at with an automatic weapon. His father also received gunshot injuries as he went up to his son to help.

This murder, like the previous murders of some other lawyers who appeared in human rights cases, has been attributed by many to pro-government death squads who are either composed of selected security service personnel or those operating closely with the services.

Mr. Abeyapala who has appeared in many Habeas Corpus applications before courts on behalf of detainees taken into custody or who had 'disappeared' had received several threats before he was gunned down. Because of these threats he had stopped appearing in such cases in the recent past. The victim was the nephew of another well known human rights lawyer, Mr. Prins Gunasekera. Mr. Gunasekera himself has now gone abroad following threats to his life.

Some weeks before the murder, Mr. Abeyapala had received an anonymous telephone call and the caller, who claimed responsibility for the shooting of another lawyer, Charitha Lankapura, had stated that there were three more people in their 'hit list'. Included in this hit list was Mr. Abeyapala and Mr. Prins Gunesekera, the caller had said.

LTTE's ULTIMATUM

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in a statement released on 10 September has demanded that all Members, including the Chief Minister, of the newly created North-East Provincial Council and all employees working for the Council should quit by 30 September.

The Council constituted in November last year is headed by the LTTE's rival Tamil Militant group, Eelam Peoples Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF). The LTTE's statement issued under the authority of its political committee alleges the North-Eastern Provincial Council is a creation of India to serve what the LTTE describes as India's geo-political interests and is not meant for the safety and welfare of Eelam Tamils.

Declaring that the LTTE will not permit the Provincial Council to continue as a 'slave' of India, it has characterised the members and employees of the Council as 'anti-national'. If the LTTE's demand for quitting by end of September is not complied with, they will be regarded as 'traitors' and 'enemies of the people', and therefore liable to severe 'punishment'. Even the property, including vehicles, of the Provincial Council, is liable to become targets of attacks.

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OUTCOME OF A.P.C. – UNPREDICTABLE

by Rita Sebestian, from Colombo

The collective consensus of the nation that the country is heading for disaster, with a rapidly deteriorating law and order situation, was what prompted the summoning of the **ALL-PARTY CONFERENCE (APC)** on September 13th.

The thinking was that political ideologies must take second place to the national interest.

The ball was set rolling by a Sri Lanka Freedom Party led grouping of five opposition political parties who appealed to President Premadasa, to set up a provisional government and hold fair and free elections, with constitutional reforms that would replace the executive Presidency with a Prime Minister answerable to Parliament.

No sooner had the five party grouping got into the act, than other groups and individuals, including religious bodies, voiced their concern not only about the escalation of violence and a state of near-anarchy in the country, but of the gross violation of human rights by those opposed to the government, as well as those associated with it.

Hundreds of mutilated unidentified bodies have surfaced all over the country, and disappearances have added to the fear from killer squads on the prowl.

The summoning of the all-party conference was, as President Premadasa mentioned in his inaugural speech, for three purposes. The first was to express 'our common desire and solidarity on a collective search for a viable solution to the problems of violence and unrest that has afflicted the country, secondly to consider and endorse the modalities that have emerged through consultations held earlier, and thirdly to make a determined and concerted effort to bring those outside into mainstream politics, to restore peace, to strengthen the civil administration and the rule of law and to promote structural reforms'.

There has been a growing feeling these past months that it was the Executive Presidency that was responsible for today's crisis. Critics of the government are quick to point out that, if there had been no Executive Presidency, former President J.R. Jayewardene would not have been able to sign the controversial Indo-Lanka accord held responsible for the escalation of southern militancy. A Prime Minister answerable to Parliament would not have been able to do his own thing.

The demand for holding 'fair and free elections' is based on the premise that the ruling United National Party misused State machinery for both the Presidential and Parliamentary elections. It is a view endorsed by the JVP as well, as evidenced by their continuing reference to this 'illegal regime'.

Although the invitation to the JVP to attend the APC brought no response, the political contacts who acted as intermediaries believe that if the President accedes to the demand for the setting up of a provisional government and the holding of elections, the JVP will participate.

The APC however, demonstrated in no uncertain terms that whatever reservations groups and political parties had, of involving themselves with the government to seek solutions to the problems facing the country, they did put aside widely differing ideologies to seek common cause.

The inaugural session regarded as a non-event since it was merely a 'marking their presence exercise', at least holds some measure of hope with the parties agreeing to hold discussions with the government. The President who has set aside ten days for consultations with political parties and groups, either individually or together with other parties and groups, declared himself ready for change 'if change would bring the desired results'.

According to a senior Minister it had been agreed among the parties that the inaugural session would not be used as a forum for discussion, because it could have easily turned out to be a slanging match between groups opposed to each other.

What was significant was, that for the first time since the Thimpu conference in 1985 when the main Tamil groups came together under the umbrella of the Eelam National Liberation Front (ENLF), September 13th saw them facing each other again across the conference table, but sadly in opposing camps.

The EPRLF delegation had Oslo returned Loganathan Ketheeswaran, a member of the EPRLF Central Committee, on a short visit to Sri Lanka, raring to go on two specific issues. One was the Amnesty for EPRLF General Secretary K. Pathmanabha, indicted on a conspiracy charge against the Sri Lankan government and for whom an open warrant has been issued by court.

The EPRLF contention is that the offence was committed before the signing of the Indo-Lanka Accord and as such, he is entitled to the general amnesty granted to all the Tamil rebels.

The other more important issue is EPRLF's query as to how the Tigers were attending the conference, even as observers, when they have issued an ultimatum to the North-East Provincial council, constituted under the auspices of the Sri Lankan government, that the Council members must quit before October first.

The LTTE ultimatum given wide publicity in the government controlled Daily News is seen by the EPRLF as a well orchestrated plan by the government and the Tigers to subvert the legally constituted body.

And Ketheeswaran made no pretence in warning both the Sri Lankan government and the Tigers, at a press conference on the day following the APC, that any such move would be met with the EPRLF militia being used as a Tamil National Army to 'defend its people and its soil'.

The EPRLF, feeling its authority undermined by the on-going Government-LTTE dialogue, (expected to begin a third round shortly) has sent signals both to the Sri Lanka government and to India that it would, if the necessity arose, take the road to secession.

But that, they know would be an impossible task without India's support. India however has categorically stated it would not contribute to the division of the island. And now with India and Sri Lanka determined to mend fences, the possibility seems most unlikely.

Even if the EPRLF had gained some measure of support in the north-east region, it forfeited that support in the wake of forced conscription of youth. EPRLF defends its position by attributing conscription to the EPRLF as a political party, and not to the EPRLF dominated administration that constitutes the Provincial government. 'There is an apathy and lethargy among the people and if we don't take measures, however unpopular they may be, we cannot carry out our political struggle' says Ketheeswaran. 'We came into the mainstream and the mainstream is now polluted, and we in turn have soiled our hands'.

As the various parties put forward their proposals to the government, Tamil needs will also be voiced. The EPRLF has already prepared a document, still to be ratified by the party, which it will place before the government. In it, it has asked for devolution that goes beyond the 13th amendment.

But whatever proposals are made, and whatever emerges from the consultations, after the ten days set aside for discussions before the APC is reconvened on October 12th, what is imperative now is that the Tamil groups come together to find solutions to the Tamil problem. Into this will also come the agreement between Colombo and

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HEAVY DAMAGE TO PUBLIC PROPERTY

As security operations were intensified against them, 'subversives' (an euphemism for JVP/DJV rebels) inflicted heavy losses amounting to over hundreds of millions of rupees by destroying government and public buildings as well as important documents during the week ending 16 September in what appeared to be an emerging trend to attack government property.

Scores of post offices and hundreds of sub-post offices, offices of the Provincial Government Agents and district Assistant Government Agents and Grama Sevakas have been set on fire and destroyed.

The Polonnaruwa Paddy Marketing Board and the Government Seed Centre were razed to the ground causing damages of over Rs.150 million and Rs.45 million respectively. The most affected areas are Anuradhpura, Polonnaruwa, Moneragala, Kandy and many areas in the southern province.

Along with setting fire to buildings the attackers have paid special attention to the destruction of important government and public documents.

ASIA WATCH CONDEMNS KILLINGS

Asia Watch has criticized the alleged vigilante killings by Sri Lankan security forces. The human rights organization also condemned the recent killings by the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP), the Sinhala-dominated organization opposed to the Indian presence on the island.

Asia Watch, part of the Human Rights Watch, the American equivalent of Amnesty International, called on the government of Ranasinghe Premadasa to investigate reports that its forces 'are now operating vigilante death squads which have killed civilians and assassinated human rights lawyers' as part of a massive crackdown against suspected supporters of the JVP.

In a report released on Sept 6, it said Kanchana Abhayapala, a human rights lawyer who had filed hundreds of Habeas Corpus petitions in the courts in cases of illegal detention and disappearances of suspected JVP supporters, is believed to have been assassinated on August 28, by government-backed death squads.

For its part, the JVP was condemned for the deaths of two senior journalists, Thevis Guruge, chairman of the Sri Lankan Broadcasting Corporation on July 23 and Premakeerthi de Alwis, announcer for SLBC on August 1.

Asia Watch attributed the recent escalation in violence to the JVP's recent threat to kill the families of all security personnel who failed to resign from service by August 20, a deadline that was reportedly later extended to August 27.

Explains Its Stand

The rights organization emphasized, however, that it did not question Colombo's 'obligation to take appropriate measures to restore law and order', but killings by paramilitary organizations to carry out extrajudicial executions, 'is indefensible and a flagrant violation of international human rights and humanitarian law'.

It maintained that the way to combat the JVP 'is to strengthen the ability of the legitimate security forces to maintain order while respecting the rule of law, not to create additional bodies which operate outside the law'.

The organization reaffirmed its call for the Premadasa government to facilitate access by the International Committee of the Red Cross to aid civilians in areas of conflict.

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Delhi which will spell out the time frame for IPKF withdrawal.

And if as envisaged, there is a ceasefire and the IPKF withdrawal in entirety by December 31st, will it be the killing fields scenario that the EPRLF predicted?

The agreement, according to Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne, will be acceptable to both the EPRLF and the Tigers, who have now made themselves the main actors in the drama.

While President Premadasa is supremely confident that the Tigers will honour their pledge to cease hostilities against all Sri Lankan citizens, the EPRLF has no such illusions. And starting on that premise not even the APC holds out hope for the restoration of peace and normalcy in the north-east regions.

But then if the APC deliberations lead to fresh elections there is no predicting what accommodation Tamil aspirations will find in those changes.

ANOTHER VICE-CHANCELLOR GUNNED DOWN

The Vice-Chancellor of the Moratuwa University, Professor C. Patuwathavithana, was shot dead in his office along with the University's Chief Security Officr Ranaweera on 11 September reportedly by two JVP gunmen.

The gunmen who had arrived on a motor cycle at about 9.30am ordered the security officers who were at the gate to take them to the office of the Chief Security Officer Mr. Ranaweera. There they demanded and obtained from Mr. Ranaweera his walkie-talkie. Thereafter Mr. Ranaweera was shot on the head three times with a revolver.

After gunning down Ranaweera, the gunmen walked into the offices of the Vice-Chancellor who was with his personal assistant Mr. C.S. Fernando and pumped in three bullets into the neck and head of the Vice-Chancellor who died on the spot. After the foul deed was done, the attackers escaped through the rear entrance of the University.

Prof. Patuwathavithana is the second Vice-Chancellor to be killed this year. In March this year Prof. Stanley Jayasundera of the Colombo University was also gunned down in his office.

Making reference to the contribution made by Prof. Patuwathavithana to engineering education and development of science and technology condemning his assassination, the Open University Teachers Association in a statement said, 'It is certainly a cultural regression when persons who contribute to intellectualism and development of science and technology are deprived of their right to live'.

EXODUS AS JVP TURNS FIRE ON DOCTORS

Doctors in Sri Lanka who have been ordered by the JVP not to treat injured members of the security forces have become the latest pawn in the war between the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna and the Government, and growing numbers are trying to leave the country rather than face the prospect of being killed by one side or the other.

The pressure on the medical profession is a telling example of the way the JVP insurgency and the Sri Lanka Government's counter campaign have eaten into every section of society leaving virtually nobody immune from violence.

Government doctors received letters warning them not to treat anyone from the police or armed services. Such warnings from the JVP are taken seriously, since they are backed by death. But in the course of their duties, doctors get patients from the services, many of them critically wounded, and not to treat them would be ethically wrong and invite Government retaliation.

'I took leave for a day and stayed away from work, because I didn't know what to do', said a young doctor, the day after he got a letter from the JVP asking him not to attend to cases from the armed services, 'if an army or policeman comes with bullet injuries and I refuse to treat him, I'll probably get shot by them', he said. 'But if I

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treat him, word will get around and I will be marked by the JVP', he said.

'I never imagined doctors would get caught in the conflict like this. I thought both sides would respect us', he added.

The medical and dental associations have made a public appeal asking that they be allowed to treat all patients without discrimination. But this is not likely to have much effect. The JVP has already demonstrated its ability to cripple the health services when it forced hospitals in the Colombo region to shut down for eight days earlier this month after two hospital workers were arrested for putting up posters asking doctors not to treat army and policemen. The two were released and the strike is now over, but work in hospitals has not yet got back to normal.

The propect of being shot dead at work has forced larger numbers of qualified medical personnel to go abroad. According to reports in the local media, the Sri Lankan Health Ministry got around seven or eight applications a day from doctors wishing to take leave and go abroad, up from the normal two or three a day.

A.I. CALLS FOR END TO RISING TIDE OF KILLINGS

Asserting that hundreds of deliberate killings of unarmed civilians by government forces have been carried out in the southern districts of Sri Lanka during the past few months, Amnesty International has called upon the government to take urgent action to 'halt the rising tide of killings, "disappearances", torture and arbitrary detentions by government forces since the reimposition of the state of emergency in June'.

Documenting dozens of cases of extrajudicial executions of suspected members of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), Amnesty International states that the 'Army personnel have been seen raiding houses and taking youths away at random – their bodies or limbs were later found by the roadside, on pyres of burning tyres or floating in rivers', and that 'government backed paramilitary groups operating in civilian clothes and unmarked cars have been responsible for extrajudicial executions, "disappearances" and torture'.

While acknowledging that the 'JVP has been responsible for hundreds of killings of civilians and military personnel', and appreciating that 'the authorities need to take special measures in circumstances involving armed opposition', Amnesty International states that 'these measures must always be in accordance with international human rights treaties'.

Amnesty International has also condemned 'forcible detention of hundreds of civilians, mostly young men, by the forces of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) and the Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front (ENDLF)' in the north and east of the country. 'The men (and some women) are reported to be forced to participate in the Citizen's Volunteer Force, a special security force that works closely with the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF). Although there is no basis in law for these detentions, an estimated 4,000 'recruits' have been seized and are being given obligatory training. A few have been released: others who escaped were subsequently killed or had relatives killed in apparent reprisals'.

Calling for 'full investigations into the killings of unarmed civilians by the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in northern Sri Lanka', Amnesty International states, 'On 2 August at least 51 people – including six women and seven children – were reportedly killed in a reprisal attack by the IPKF at Valvedditurai after the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam had ambushed an IPKF patrol in the town killing six Indian soldiers. Many victims were pulled from their houses and shot in the back; others were lined up against walls and shot. Over a hundred houses were burnt along with dozens of shops, vehicles and fishing boats'.

POLITICIANS 'HIRING WEAPONS'

It is learnt that the Inspector General of Police has ordered a top-level investigation into the reports that weapons given to politicians for their own protection and to their personal 'bodyguards' are being 'hired out to carry out private jobs'.

Quoting a Defence Ministry source, the Sri Lankan English weekly, WEEKEND of 17 September stated the IGP would be following up several complaints he had received to the effect that weapons were being 'hired out' for illegal activities including commmitting murders and robberies. The complaints related to specific instances in the Kurunegala district and southern province, but the investigations would not be limited to only these areas. Recently a senior government politician from the southern province had complained to the Ministry of Defence that instances of such 'hiring' were occurring in the Matara district. Some weeks ago a Provincial Council Member was questioned by the police in connection with the 'loaning' of his weapons to friends who had used them to slaughter pigs.

The problem in Sri Lanka is that too many people have been given and are handling weapons. Each of the 225 elected MPs and Provincial Council Members who number several hundreds are entitled to be issued with weapons through the Defence Ministry. They are also entitled to armed personal bodyguards not all of whom belong to the security forces. During the elections held last February this year, almost all candidates who contested were entitled to obtain weapons for their protection, but most of the candidates had retained the weapons without returning them even though they were defeated.

BAR ASSOCIATION PROTESTS AGAINST ATTACKS ON LAWYERS

A delegation from the Bar Association of Sri Lanka recently met President Premadasa to explain and protest against the increasing attacks and dangers faced by the legal profession. The threat to the profession came from death squads alleged to be associated with the security forces and some instances from those connected with the JVP/DJV.

Mr. Desmond Fernando, P.C., President of the Bar Association, and delegation spokesman said the legal profession played an important and integral role in the administration of justice. Lawyers were officers of court in law as well as in fact. If they were under threat they could no longer function effectively.

Explaining the nature of the threat Mr. Fernando said an attempt had been made on the life of Mr. Ian Wikramanayake. An inmate of his house was killed. Mr. Wikramanayake was counsel for Mr Dharmadasa, a senior police officer facing a charge of murder in the High Court.

Mr. Wikramanayake was shot at presumably because he was defending this police officer. Mr Wickramanayake was thus prevented from appearing. No other lawyer would undertake this case through fear of death. The police officer was without counsel and therefore if he were to be tried his trial would not be a fair one.

It should be noted, he said, that the victim in this case was the late Mr. Wijedasa Liyanarachchi, attorney at law. The police officer, just as any accused was entitled to a fair trial and his inability to find a counsel was one of the major problems relating to the administration of justice.

Another instance was the killing of Charitha Lankapura, shot by unidentified gunmen. Mr. Lankapura was appearing in a large number of habeas corpus cases.

Continued on Page 9

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Continued from Page 7

Mr. Fernando next cited the killing of Mr. Kanchana Abhayapala, who too handled a number of habeas corpus applications. Mr Abhayapala was threatened first and had informed the Chief Justice of the threat. He did not appear in any habeas corpus applications after that – yet he was killed. Threats were being made to Mr. Prins Gunasekara, attorney at law, on the telephone.

Mr. Fernando said it was important to stress the duty of a lawyer. No one would accuse a lawyer who appeared in a murder case of approving the act of murder; or in a case of burglary, the act of burglary. Likewise he should not be thought to share the political or other views of his clients.

He said the association would like to see some measures taken in this regard. The first, a condemnation by the government of the killing of lawyers and of threats to lawyers while they were fulfilling their professional obligations.

The association also urged the government to give the Bar Association of Sri Lanka its co-operation and assistance in any measures it may take to protect its membership.

Mr. Fernando said SP Dharmadasa had informed the bar association that in view of his inability to obtain a Lankan lawyer, he had tried to retain a lawyer from abroad. He found however that in order to appear in Sri Lanka, a lawyer who had qualified abroad had to pass all the Law College examinations.

Lawyers from abroad had appeared in past important cases eg. D.N. Pritt, Q.C. in the Bandaranaike assassination case. This restriction on a senior barrister appearing in the courts of Sri Lanka was clearly a restrictive practice manifestly not in the public interest.

The association also urged that a commission of inquiry headed by a Supreme Court judge be appointed to inquire into Mr. Abhayapala's death, as such a commission would be able to look into wider issues.

EXPATRIATE TAMILS WON'T RETURN

The majority of more than 100,000 Tamils who sought refuge in Western Europe to escape the violence here are unlikely to return to Sri Lanka. Instead they will settle in the countries they are living in now, according to the leader of the Eelavar Democratic Front, the largest Tamil party in Parliament.

Mr. Shankar Raji who has just returned from a meeting of their branch representatives in Europe said that the hope that the stay of the large number of Tamil refugees in Europe was temporary and that they would return home once there was peace here, was receding and 'we now accept the fact 90 per cent of these people are going to settle there'.

His meeting with representatives of their branches in Switzerland, West Germany, France, Denmark, Norway, the UK and what is called their 'outpost' in West Berlin held at Dusseldorf late last month, was to brief them about the situation here, EROS' political strategy and their dialogue with the government and what was known about the LTTE-Government talks.

Earlier they had done a lot of political work among these Tamils and that they had hoped that their stay in Europe would be temporary and that they would return to Sri Lanka once conditions were normal.

Now, he said, more and more of the European governments were issuing residenceship permits and passports to the Tamil refugees, some of whom had been there for more than five years.

'Come 1992 when the EEC will have a unified capital and labour exchange most of the refugees will be absorbed by these countries', he explained. 'Their economies are expanding and they have problems with the labour market – the available labour population has shrunk'.

Some refugees, in Berlin, he said, had been allowed to return to Sri Lanka and go back.

Asked if he was disappointed by this turn of events Mr. Raji simply replied: 'It's the reality we have to face, rather than emotion'.

CASINOS AND DISCOS FLOURISH AS DEATH TOLL MOUNTS

By Roger May

COLOMBO Sept 5, (Reuter) – When Sri Lanka's night curfew begins, Colombo's young and wealthy start to boogie and play the fruit machine.

The curfew has been a god send', said James Lindley, who runs the Ritz Casino, one of three operating in the city's luxury hotels.

'People come at the same time as before. But now they have to stay until four in the morning'.

The government of the palm fringed Indian Ocean island is in a desperate battle to crush left wing rebels trying to overthrow it by calling strikes and killing soldiers and police.

The death toll is mounting daily and an increasing number of dismembered bodies have been found burning by the roadside or floating down rivers.

The government introduced a six hour curfew in July as part of a nationwide security operation which has netted thousands of rebel suspects.

But while Sri Lanka's poor live in fear of their lives, the more fortunate seem determined to enjoy themselves regardless.

'Profits have been up 15 per cent in the casino during the last five weeks', said Lindley who has also run casinos in two of the world's other trouble spots – Iran and Lebanon.

'When people are nervous, they gamble to escape.

'Most of the punters are local and expatriate Colombo residents', he said. Tourist spending on fruit machines, roulette and electronic card games was relatively small.

'A regular punter will be given a free room in the hotel', said Lindley, 'he is an investment'.

Turnover in the capital's other hotel casinos is also high according to local businessmen.

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CALL FOR END TO ARMED HOSTILITIES AMONG TAMIL GROUPS

The following is the text of a statement adopted by the General Council of the London based Standing Committee of Tamils (SCOT)

'We deplore and condemn the assassination of TULF leaders, Mr. A. Amirthalingam and Mr. V. Yogeswaran and the attempted assassination of Mr. M. Sivasithamparam who escaped death with serious injuries on 13 Juy 1989.

We also condemn the murder of Mr. Uma Maheswaran, the General Secretary of the Peoples Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam on 16 July 1989.

These senseless and wanton killings constitute the latest examples of a pattern of political murders that have been taking place within the Tamil community in recent years. The ignominious catalogue of past murders and misdeeds is not confined to high profile politicians or Tamil militants; tragically it includes civil servants, newspapermen; human rights and humanitarian workers, educationists and ordinary civilian Tamils. The violence and counter-violence of recent years have succeeded in spawning a culture of intolerance in which political differences are sought to be resolved instantly by use of the gun rather than patiently by force of reason and argument. Human rights violations whether committed by state agencies or by anyone else deserve equal condemnation.

The freedom struggle drew its strength from youths who joined it on the basis of their conviction, courage and commitment and parents took pride in the fact that their progeny had dedicated itself to a just cause in joining the struggle against attempts at genocide. Regrettably, recruitment now is by coercion and not persuasion and the objective it appears is no longer a fight for freedom but the annihilation of any dissenting voice in the internecine battle for supremacy. In a desperate attempt to sustain their cadres, some militant groups are now resorting to conscription. Hapless children are plucked away from screaming parents to keep alive the struggle which has taken this unfortunate turn. We deplore the practice of forced recruitment of innocent children into a process of enforced militarisation.

The IPKF for its part continues to intensify its activity and under the guise of flushing out operations turns its wrath on innocent civilian Tamils and frequently indulges in the most flagrant violations of human rights.

The killing of Tamils by fellow Tamils will outnumber those caused by the security forces of Sri Lanka and India. This is a spectre that we can do without.

A disunited, depleted and demoralized community has become the hunting ground for a variety of competing interests and forces.

We call upon all Tamil militant groups to institute an immediate cessation of armed hostilities among themselves, to eschew the use of force or arms as a means of conflict resolution, and to seek to resolve their differences by negotiations.'

DIVINE JUSTICE

The mills of God grind slowly,
But they grind exceeding fine;
That's what the 'Sri Lanka story'
Always brings to my mind.
When we break the Lord's commandments
We bring down His wrath on our heads;
Though we may escape the world's judgement,
'VENGEANCE IS MINE' the Lord has said.

We were once a happy nation
Of Sinhalese, Tamil, Muslim and Burghers;
We worked hand in hand for our freedom;
We thought ourselves – sisters and brothers,
Till Satan sowed discord among us;
The Sinhalese wanted to rule and suppress
They started a series of discriminations
Which caused all other races distress.

The first to fall victim was the Burgher,
Who left the island without a murmur
He went down to Australia to settle,
Where now he is doing very well.
While those who drove him are going down hill,
Well on their way to Hell.
Since the 1983 carnage they now seem to find
their old way of life has gone with the wind.

They then turned their attention on the Tamils,
The Indians they deprived of their vote;
Now, forty years after Independence
The Indians are holding them by their throats.
To cut down the Ceylon Tamil's power
They decreed the official language – Sinhala,
To deny Tamils higher education,
They introduced their notorious standardisation.

They kept our boys out of universities,
Hence most left the Island for higher studies
Though scattered world over – like the Jews
They brought credit to the countries they did choose.
Those who stayed behind had no choice
But to see that the world heard their voice
Their lives they've sacrificed in the fight
To keep their honour and regain their right.

The universities they reserved for their boys
Have turned into hotbeds of violence and vice.
The youth stand out and hopefully gaze;
But the 'Varsity doors are slammed in their face.
Even the young ones are denied education
But forced to take part in political demonstration,
Their little lives are also in danger:
It's the work of the dogs in the manger.

They sent their troops North with bombs and guns
Given license to kill and burn – house and barn
Killing and burning they did their job well
But the brave Tamil spirit they just couldn't quell.
Now see what a mess they have made of the South
Their sons perfecting what they practised up North.
The very guns used against the Tamil unrest
Are now turned against them – pointing at their breast.

Oh God! How many more 'plagues' have you to send?
Before they open their eyes and begin to mend;
There are still some in our country who are just playing ball
Who can't even see the writing on the wall,
Who will tell them of your promise that still stands
'IF MY PEOPLE SHALL HUMBLE THEMSELVES AND SEEK MY FACE –
I WILL HEAL THEIR LAND.' (2 Chronicles ch:7 verse 14)

Jothi
Colombo.

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Learning From History

What prompted the LTTE to have direct dialogue with the Sri Lankan government, an offer which you were spurning for nearly a decade now?

The first reason is, of course, that we want to get rid of the Indian army from this place because it is responsible for all the problems in Sri Lanka. The second reason is that we have learnt a lesson from history. Over a period of time various alien, occupation forces have occupied this island by capitalising on the prevailing ethnic differences between the Tamils, Sinhalese and Muslims. We don't want to repeat that historic mistake. We think it is our duty to join hands with the Sinhalese to get rid of the alien Indian occupation force. We spurned earlier offers for talks because of the preconditions laid down by the government. However, this time President Premadasa's open invitation without any preconditions and terms, paved the way for direct dialogue.

– Extract from an interview with LTTE's Deputy Leader, Mahendrarajah (Mahathaya) in India Week.

Cunning and Caprice of History.

And yet, just a few years ago, when eminent bankers and businessmen, distinguished men of letters and retired civil servants, Hulftdorp 'heavies', assorted academics, some self-styled, and the dogged contributors, often pseudonymous, to the correspondence columns beat the antique war drums, the BBC and the rest of the international press, and of course Amnesty International were all so plainly a part of the global conspiracy of Catholic Action. And Reaction. Then, powerful voices would be raised from Opposition benches too,

To the Many-faced Mr. Gunman of the Pearly Island

by
Prof. Kopan Mahadeva

When you feel urged to take one's life
Stop and think – just ten ticks:
What would you wish, were you that life
And it in your shoes stood ?

Do pull your trigger, if you must,
Coward with killing lust,
To thus protect your peevish life,
Those of your children, wife.

To shoot proved leaders, the senile, sick,
Mothers, kids, and the public,
while claiming you are righteous, their friend
That's not brave, no fair a trend.

Slave, you are, of some satanic curse,
Robot, unbridled horse.
Because your own life you care for not,
You'll kill the rest ? What rot ?

(July 1989)

WITHOUT COMMENT

goading the government and demanding that our Air Force bomb the bastards back to the Stone Age. Today for some at least of the same crowd, the BBC, and Amnesty International are the sole voices of reason and truth. Today, we weep over the IPKF's 'My Lai massacre' at VVT and applaud Amnesty for its reports on human rights violations. . .by the same agencies! How the cunning and caprice of History mocks the petty vanities and stupidities of our middle-class intelligentsia.

Only those Sri Lankans who did not allow race and religion to cloud or colour their judgment and chose to read events in terms of (Third World) processes and institutions – particularly the steady growth of the National Security State – can afford to smile. Sadly.

– Kautilya in Sunday Island, 10.9.89.

Putting the Blame on Jayawardene

Q. Are you stating that the JVP is behind the killings?

Yes. I am making a direct statement that the JVP is responsible. They have obtained land mines from a certain Organisation in the North.

Q. Gamini Dissanayake, a Senior Minister has said that dead bodies are going up in flames. What is your opinion?

A. It is wrong of him to make such statements. He must withdraw it. The bodies are those of our men. In future no Minister will be allowed to make arbitrary statements that affect our defence.

Q. Former President Jayawardene has said that the solution to all problems would be the formation of a National Government?

A. I do not agree. All these problems have their origin in the Jayawardene regime.

– Extracts from Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne's interview with the Sunday Times of August 13, 1989.

Halting the Backward Slide

The tasks before us now are to regain those freedoms that we enjoyed in full measure even at the time of achieving independence, and at the time when we exchanged a system of Parliamentary Rule for a system of presidential rule, 11 years ago. What are those freedoms? They are the freedoms that we once took for granted, but now are luxuries, such as the freedom to have a reasonable expectation of dying of natural causes in the fullness of time; the freedom of children to go to school; the freedom of the sick to get medical attention; the freedom of the worker to work; and the freedom of the voter to vote freely, at a just and fair election. In the international sphere, our task is not so much to make a contribution to the peace and prosperity of mankind, as to regain the respect and dignity we once enjoyed.

In short the task that faces Sri Lanka today, is not so much to go forward, as to halt our inexorable backward slide into the bottomless abyss of anarchy and disintegration, and to fan ever so much more vigorously, the hardly discernible flame of democracy, which is all but extinguished, and to thereby create the necessary conditions that would enable us to go forward, on the path to peace, prosperity and happiness.

– S.L. Gunasekara, (SLFP) MP, at the Seminar held on 9.9.89 at the BMICH.

Suicidal Diplomacy

That of course was the whole point about the 'quit notice' to the IPKF which was issued in a most unorthodox manner, to put it mildly. But then Mr. Premadasa's style is almost compulsively unconventional. A temple ceremony is neither the place nor the occasion for conducting diplomacy. Manners apart, it may be dangerous, perhaps even suicidal to issue a vacation order to the world's fourth largest army. You simply don't go public with these things.

– Kautilya in Sunday Island, 17.9.89.

Acknowledgement

The family of the late **Vettivelu Yogeswaran** would like to thank all who sent messages of sympathy, attended the meeting in his memory, and helped in this and other ways.

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NEWS ROUND-UP

THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT Bank has allotted Rs.14 lakhs to renovate the Veera Singham Hall in Jaffna and the storeyed buildings connected with it. These buildings were badly damaged by repeat shell attacks.

● **AT LEAST 12** unidentified dead bodies were found burning near the Potupitya (Wadduwa) General Cemetery, Galle Road and near Moronthuduwa bridge on Horana road on 1 September.

● **THE NEWLY MARRIED** bride of the officer in Charge (OIC) of Angunakolapelessa police station, his mother and sister were killed in a landmine blast on 2 September at Binkama. The OIC who got married the previous day was returning with his family in two vehicles. He and his father had been travelling in a jeep while the victims and his brother-in-law had followed the jeep in a car which was blasted in the explosion. The dead were identified as W.A.W. Weerasinghe (wife), N.M. Tikiri Menike (mother) and N.M. Indra Kanthi Nissanka (sister).

● **THE GOVERNMENT** has directed Government Agents of the districts in the North-East Province not to take any instructions from the IPKF on matters pertaining to civilian administration. They had also been asked to bring to the notice of the Secretrary of the Ministry of Defence any interference by the IPKF in civilian administration as well as any contravention of laws relating to immigration, customs etc. so that each individual case could be reported to the Indian authorities.

● **A HOUSE** belonging to the family of a Special Task Force commando was set on fire on 3 September at Thirapanne in Anuradhapura.

● **DOCTORS** are perturbed over the arrest of their colleagues and their family members resident at the medical living quarters in Barnes Place, Colombo in a raid by police on 4 September. Police are alleged to have stormed the medical quarters at about 1.30 am, searched the premises and taken the doctors, family members and friends who were in the premises at the time. A number of those arrested had been released the same night but others were released the following day after the intervention by the Health Minister.

● **A PROMINENT** organiser of the SLFP in Kurunegala, identified as H.P. Wijesekera, was shot dead by armed persons in the Dompe electorate on 4 September. An armed gang shot and killed the Batwala Gramasevaka Mrs. Malani Chandralatha and her husband C. Perera, a Project Coordinating Officer of the Attanagalla AGA's office.

● **THE RUBBER RESEARCH** Institute Chairman and former Deputy Minister and ex-UNP MP, Merryl Kariyawasam was shot dead by gunmen at his office in Ratmalana on 5 September. The assailants, who had entered the office under the guise of attending to official duties, later shot dead a security guard and seriously injured a Secretary.

● **A GOVERNMENT** communique issued on 5 September stated that security forces conducting cordon and search operations all over the island took into custody 885 suspected 'subversives' of whom 243 had been detained and the balance released after interrogation. Security forces killed 3 'subversives', including the area Commander of Welewewa in the Puttlama district when they tried to escape from a safe house. A large quantity of 'subversive leaflets', posters with envelopes addressed to the people of Nawagathegama was recovered. Four 'subversives' who were hiding on the river bank at Lewella in Kandy were arrested with repeater shotguns, eight pistols, ammunition, M.14 grenades etc.

● **MASKED GUNMEN** shot dead two women, identified as W.M. Seelawathie (45) and P. Nilmini Jayasinghe (17), at Angamapitiya in Padukka on 5 September while more bodies with burn injuries continued to surface in the southern province, Colombo and coastal areas of the western province. At Akuwela in Morawaka three burnt bodies were recovered, and a poster near the dead bodies indicated that they were killed by anti-JVP death squads. A number of bodies were also recovered from the river Maha Oya.

● **HOPES OF RETURNING** to normalcy at the General Hospital Colombo remained dim as hospital services remained crippled for the ninth consecutive day. Most hospitals in the country were non-functioning although the Kalubowila Hospital and the Ragama hospital continued to treat emergencies, according to a report in the SUN of 6 September.

● **UNIDENTIFIED** gunmen shot and killed a person, identified as J.K. Gamage, in Kiribathgoda on 6 September. On the same day two bodies with gunshot injuries were recovered at the Kiribathgoda Housing Scheme. An armed gang set fire to two Indian made Tata buses at Igaloya in the Siyabalanduwa area. The passengers in the buses had been ordered to get off the vehicles before they were set on fire. The gunmen also forcibly removed the national identity cards from the passengers.

● **A REUTER REPORT** dated September 7, Colombo stated that the remains of eight unidentified civilians smouldered on a pile of burning rubber tyres in northern Sri Lanka (Ulukulama lakeside park in Anuradhapura). The bodies had gunshot holes and were on the roadside. They were not people from the area. Murders of civilians, some believed to be terrorist sympathisers, have escalated in recent weeks. Most of the dead have been dumped in rivers or burned on roadsides.

Four more bodies, with gunshot injuries and partly burnt, were discovered by the Passara police at the 13th mile post along the Passara-Namunukula road on 7 September.

● **FOUR CHILDREN** identified as P.A. Gamini (16), A. Saranayake (8), H. Tilakasiri (12), and P.A. Sajeewa (10) were killed on the spot and another girl was seriously injured on 7 September when a bomb they were examining in a house in Lenawa, Akuressa exploded. The bomb had been brought to the residence by Gamini of Telijiwila Central School. On the same day in a separate incident two soldiers were killed and two others injured in a landmine blast at Morawewa in the Trincomalee district. At the time of the incident, the victims were travelling in a jeep which was blown up by the explosion.

● **RAISING AS** a matter of public importance, K. Premachandran, MP (TULF-EPRLF), told parliament on 8 September that all districts of the North-East had been without electricity for the previous two months and that the whole economy in the region had come to a standstill as a result. Work at all rice mills had come to a halt depriving peoples livelihoods and also pushing up the price of rice. Hospitals were among those institutions that had been badly affected. The KKS cement factory too was not functioning. The supply of electricity which was disrupted due to sabotage in the south had however been restored to Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa and Medawachchiya, but the North-East had continued to remain without power. The matter was brought to the notice of the Minister concerned, but the promises made had not been kept. The MP accused the government of giving step-motherly treatment to the North-East.

● **TWENTY-THREE** undergraduates were taken into custody within week, ending 9 September bringing the total number of university students arrested to over 100 during the previous three weeks.

● **AT LEAST 41 YOUTHS** were shot dead in three separate incidents in the early hours of 8 September in the central province. Of the 41, the bullet riddled bodies of six youths with serious burn injuries were found close to the Bellanwila Purana Maha Viharaya. The faces of the victims had been completely burnt defying identification. At Pahala Kadugannawa gunmen armed with automatic weapons

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were responsible for gunning down at least 30 youths. Their bodies with gunshot wounds were found by residents on the same day. Another six dead bodies of youths were found at Balakaduwa. All these killings are reportedly attributed to reprisal killings by security forces or death squads operating with support from service personnel. On the same day, in a separate incident, an armed gang of allegedly suspected 'subversives' raided the residence of SLFP MP, Mangala Samaraweera, in Matara and removed several guns and some ammunition.

● **ACCORDING** to a government communique issued on 8 September, three 'subversives' were killed and one captured by the security forces on the Peawatta-Neluwa Road, Kalutara. Three repeater shotguns and a shotgun were also recovered from them. At Yahalatenna in Peradeniya, police counter attacked a group of 'subversives'. A repeater shotgun, army uniforms, swords, locally made hand grenades, jungle boots, helmets and masks were also recovered. Security forces also recovered several repeaters, shotguns, grenades, gelignite, ammunition, galkatas and cartridges in search operations conducted at Pellekapugalle, Maharagama and Maliduwa.

● **A GOVERNMENT** communique issued on 10 September stated that a group of 'subversives' had entered the house of Lieutenant R.J.W. Rajapakse at Ilukwatta in the Kadugannawa area. Rajapakse who serves in an army detachment in Ratmalana near Colombo was on leave and had gone to the bazaar. 'Subversives' had forcibly held the family members awaiting the return of the officer. Friends of Rajapakse who had suspected strangers in the house had alerted the security forces who rushed to the house and arrested one 'subversive' with two hand bombs and a knife, and the others had by then fled. In another incident, about 20 persons had entered the Geekiyanakanda Estate in Tebulwana area, collected diesel from the stores and set fire to the factory. In the Matara district, 'subversives' set fire to documents in the Grama Sevaka Offices at Heegoda, Beragama and Thihagoda. A SLTB bus worth Rs.12 lakhs was set on fire by 'subversives' at Ransegoda junction. Eighty-seven suspected 'subversives' were taken in for questioning. A leading LTTE militant named Cheena of the Rama Group was shot dead by the IPKF in Batticaloa.

● **A PERSON** believed to be the JVP leader of Rajawatte in the Kalutara district is reported to have surrendered to the police and according to police sources has divulged 'valuable information' concerning the activities of the JVP/DJV in the district. The same sources claimed that the armed forces had killed seven deputy leaders of the 'movement' in the same district.

● **THE GOVERNMENT** of the Federal Republic of Germany has pledged a sum of 200,000 Deutschmarks (about Rs.3.8 million) for UNHCR sponsored activities in Sri Lanka. The money will be used by the UNHCR for assistance to be given to refugees returning to Sri Lanka.

● **FOUR IPKF** soldiers were killed on 10 September when the jeep they were travelling in hit a landmine, reportedly planted by the LTTE, at Walathapitiya. The soldiers were travelling from Samanthurai to Amparai at the time of the incident. Another soldier was critically injured. The jeep after hitting the landmine was thrown against an electric post setting the jeep on fire. Meanwhile clashes between the IPKF and LTTE were reported at Puliyankulam in the Vavuniya district in which at least five LTTE members were reported to have been killed. LTTE militants fled after an exchange of fire with the IPKF in Trincomalee. A captured LTTE member committed suicide. the LTTE attacked the EPRLF at Kilinochchi and one EPRLF member was seriously wounded in the attack.

● **A BUDDHIST MONK** committed suicide on 10 September by hanging himself within the temple premises at Padukka minutes after one of his colleagues was taken into custody and was being questioned by the police for alleged links with the JVP/DJV. At Kala Oya in Anuradhapura, an armed gang shot and killed the Chief Incumbent of the

NEWS ROUND-UP

Kala Oya Wijaya Bodhirajaramaya and the Anurdhapura Saman Viharaya, the 75 year old Ven. Kahawe Wimalasiri Thero. A note left behind by the assailants stated that the monk had been 'punished' for criticising the actions of the 'Deshapremis' (patriots). Another armed gang shot and killed two sisters, Ariyalatha and Chitra Jayasooriya at Develgoda in Nikaweratiya. On the same day in a separate incident, seven gunmen arrived in four push cycles, abducted R.S. Perera, the Manager of the Anglo-Asian factory in Ratmalana, in his own car and shot him dead on Attidya Road. Police recovered 28 dead bodies in Kottawa in the Yakalamulla police area on the Udugama Road.

Five houses belonging to families of service personnel were set on fire and destroyed at Galadawala allegedly by the JVP/DJV. The inmates had evacuated following threats and the houses had been locked up at the time they were set ablaze. At Ratmale in Parasangaswewa persons in military style uniform raided a shop and stabbed to death a person identified as T. Tilekaratne.

● **THE DEMAND** for passports has recorded an unprecedented increase during the last two to three months. The Department of Immigration and Emigration is receiving over 2000 applications daily. In addition to applicants for new passports, another one thousand passport holders called daily for renewals, change of endorsements and alterations. According to the Commissioner, the department is now issuing an average of 20,000 passports a month. Before the recent rush for passports, the department received a daily average of 500 applications.

● **AT LEAST 47 PERSONS** were killed, over 20 state-owned buildings were set ablaze and 14 sub-post offices in the southern province looted and set on fire in a wave of violence on 11 September. Of the 47 killed only three persons were identified. The highest number of bodies were recovered from the Panadura river. Residents in Panadura said that on 12th night armed gunmen in military fatigues brought several youth to the bridge, tied their hands and burnt them on a pile of tyres. When the victims struggled, they were shot and the bodies were flung into the river.

At Kurunegala, eight bodies with gunshot and burn injuries were recovered on roadsides. In Kadugannawa, six bodies were recovered by officials. It was only four days earlier on 8 September 30 bodies were recovered under the bridge with gunshot and burn injuries.

In separate incidents in Rambukkane and Pelawatte, three persons were killed by suspected 'subversives' for their alleged links with other political groups and for being critical of the JVP/DJV in public.

● **COLOMBO MUNICIPAL** Council member, S.H.M. Kamil, of the UNP who had been taken into custody for alleged attempted murder following a shooting incident at Mallikarama Flats, Dematagoda in Colombo, in which one person was killed and two others injured was released on bail in a sum of Rs.5000 and surety bail in Rs.25,000 on 12 September by the Colombo Additional Magistrate. A 75 year old bystander, Edwin Wickremasinghe died when he was shot through the head and two others were injured when an altercation between two politicians and their respective bodyguards developed into a gunfight on September 6. The two politicians, Kamil and Provincial Council Member Ladington and four others were taken into custody after the incident.

● **DR. MRS. GLADYS JAYAWARDENE,** Chairperson of State Pharmaceuticals Corporation and sister-in-law of former President J.R. Jayawardene was shot dead by gunmen on 12 September. Mrs. Jayawardene, aged 72, was shot on her way home for lunch when her car was caught in a traffic jam.

● **THE RESIDENCE** of the Minister of State for Textile Industries, Dayananda Wickremasinghe, was attacked by

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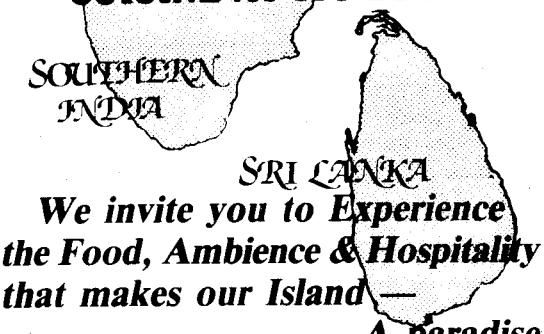
Continued on Page 15

SRI LANKAN & SOUTH INDIAN CUISINE AT ITS BEST.



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NEWS ROUND-UP

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suspected 'subversives' during the early hours of 12 September. The attack led to a confrontation between the security forces and the 'subversives' which reportedly lasted for about one-and-a-half hours. No casualties were reported. In a separate incident on the same day, Captain M. Perera of the Sri Lanka Military Police was gunned down at his residence at De Soyza Flats in Ratmalana. The gunmen who had come on a motor cycle had forcibly entered the Captain's flat around 6.30 pm and opened fire killing him on the spot. At Grantpass Road near Armout Street in Colombo, a lone gunman shot dead Henry Perera, a Company director, while on his way home.

● **THREE POLICEMEN** were killed in a gun battle with suspected 'subversives' at Bulnewa in Galnewa on 12 September. On the same day, a Buddhist monk, suspected to be connected in 'subversive' activity, is reported to have surrendered to the Anuradhapura security services Commander, Colonel Ananda Weerasekera. Five post offices and 22 sub-post offices in the Moneragala district were set on fire by 'subversives' on the night of 12 September.

● **A SEVERE SHORTAGE** of essential food items including flour, sugar, milk-foods has gripped the entire Batticaloa district due to the disruption of lorry transport services following the recent looting of goods from at least 15 lorries by armed gangs operating at Manampitiya (Batticaloa-Colombo Road) and Arantalawa (Batticaloa-Amparai Road) areas.

● **UNIDENTIFIED** armed persons hacked and shot dead three farmers, identified as M. Somasir Banda, B.M.W. Tikiri Banda and Sarath Ranasinghe, at Karagahawewa in Eppawala on 13 September.

● **OF THE TWENTY-SEVEN** political parties invited by President R. Premadasa, twenty-one attended the All Party Conference held on 13 September with a view to finding solutions to the present crisis. The JVP, NSSP and the Muslim United Liberation Front did not attend. In his opening address, the President spelt out three purposes as the objectives of the Conference: (a) To express our common desire and solidarity on a collective search for a viable solution to the problems of violence and unrest that have enveloped our motherland; (b) To consider and endorse the modalities that had emerged during our informal consultations leading to this meeting; and (c) To make a determined and concerted effort to bring those that are outside the mainstream of politics into the democratic process, to restore peace, to strengthen the civil administration and the rule of law, to introduce structural reforms and promote stability. Following his address, he announced that separate consultations with all political parties would take place from September 18 to October 6, and that the APC would be reconvened on October 12.

● **JVP MEN** in a new move on 13 September rounded up families of service personnel in the south of the island and ordered them to march into the security forces camps demanding the release of all political prisoners. A group of men in civies, believed to be members of the security services had stopped the 'procession' moving towards Beliatta, given them anti-JVP placards and ordered them to march around the town shouting anti-JVP slogans.

● **MORE THAN** 320 arrests and disappearance have been reported to the Parliamentary Committee for Human and Fundamental Rights since its inception two months ago. A spokesman for the Committee revealed that the number of recent arrests and disappearances reported had exceeded 40 a day and the number was increasing daily. He also said that it was difficult to compile accurate figures of people killed because very often the bodies had been burnt to ashes or thrown into rivers.

● **MISS SAGARIKA GOMES,** the popular singer, stage actress and TV announcer was abducted by an unknown gang and shot dead on 13 September. The 28 year old artiste was forcibly removed from her Dehiwela home and her body was found with stab and gunshot injuries on the beach the following morning at Angulana. Sagarika's elder brother is attached to the Sri Lanka Air Force. The abductors had searched the house for weapons and uniforms. They also demanded the identity cards of all the family members.

● **AT LEAST 25** persons, including suspected 'subversives' were killed in incidents as violence swept all districts during the 24 hours ending 12 noon on 14 September. At the Colombo General Hospital, an unidentified person slashed to death a patient identified as Sumanadasa who had been transferred from the Kalutara hospital. At Daranagama two suspected 'subversives' were shot dead by police. At Waggola and Ambalangoda three youths were shot dead by the security forces. At Kottegoda, a retired army soldier identified as P.M. Rhilakadasa was shot dead. At Wawinna, armed persons severed the head of a man identified as R.G. Wijeratne while in a separate incident gunmen killed four persons including three women and set fire to their bodies.

● **THE CABINET** has decided to provide insurance cover for houses of police and security personnel. Foreign Minister and Minister of State for Defence, Ranjan Wiejeratne, briefing news reporters on 14 September said the decision had been taken in the wake of the reports that the JVP/DJV were attacking and destroying houses belonging to police and service personnel. The government would insure all their houses and pay the premium.

● **FOURTEEN MAJOR** trade union organisations have called upon the government to form a 'provisional government' elected by Parliament, to hold peaceful, free and fair elections to be conducted by such a government to enable the people to elect a government of their choice and to amend the Constitution with the view to replacing the Executive Presidency by a Prime Minister who will be responsible to Parliament.

● **THE MOUNT LAVINIA** railway station was set on fire, allegedly by JVP/DJV men on 15 September at about 8.30 pm. The ticket counter and telephone communications system and some other parts of the station were damaged before the fire services brought the fire under control.

● **A GOVERNMENT** communique issued on 16 September stated that security forces conducting cordon and search operations throughout the island (except North East) had arrested 226 'subversives' in various parts of the island. Among the arrested was a second year medical student. Eleven 'subversives' were killed during these operations. At Henapitigedera in Gampaha, three shotguns, gelignite sticks, cartridges, detonators, gunpowder and DJV flags were recovered from a 'safe house'. 'Subversives' set fire to several government buildings and burnt documents in the Matara and Badulla districts. A principal of a school was abducted from his residence and killed by an unknown gang at Amunugama in Kandy. LTTE men set off a claymore mine at an IPKF route clearing patrol killing six IPKF soldiers and injuring 11 others.

● **THE STRIKE** in the tea estates run by the Janatha Estates Development Board and State Plantations Corporation which commenced on 14 September continues without settlement in sight. The strike by over 150,000 workers in 85 estates has been called by the Estates Employees Action Front.

● **AROUND 150** persons indicted under the Emergency Regulations and the Prevention of Terrorism Act in the New Magazine Prison in Colombo have refused to attend Courts till the prevailing situation in the country improved. In a memorandum addressed to the Judges of the High Court, the remand prisoners state that they feared abduction by 'unknown persons' on the way to the Courts, and their lawyers too were often not in a position to represent them in courts as a result of the prevailing situation.

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MADRAS NEWSLETTER

by Arjuna

KARUNANIDHI WALKING A TIGHT-ROPE

When the DMK romped home to power at the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections early this year with a comfortable majority, it was hardly expected that now – towards the end of the year – it would be facing a major challenge to its authority. While the battle lines are already drawn for the forthcoming Lok Sabha General Elections in the whole country, in Tamil Nadu, the DMK while being a constituent of the Opposition National Front appears to be walking a tight rope on all issues, not excluding those relating to Eelam Tamils.

What is causing this diffidence on the part of Mr. Karunanidhi? In his relationship with the Centre he is like a man willing to strike but afraid to wound. Even on the issue which is most emotive in his own state, the one concerning the Eelam Tamils, he is one step behind the northern partners in the National Front. While people like V.P. Singh, Ramakrishan Hegde and George Fernandes are uncompromisingly critical of the Rajiv Gandhi policies and have called for an immediate pull-out of the IPKF in northeast Ceylon, Mr. Karunanidhi favours a phased withdrawal and that too after getting a guarantee from all concerned for the safety and security of the Eelam Tamils. While on the face of it this might appear that he being a Tamil leader is more concerned with the safety of the Tamils than the northern leaders in India, he is really echoing the same stance adopted by the Delhi government.

There are many reasons for Mr. Karunanidhi's lack of assurance, one of which is the fear that the Centre might even topple his hardly 9-month old government on some pretext or another. Recently, DMK M.P. Murasoli Maran alleged in the Rajya Sabha that a 'conspiracy' was being hatched to dismiss the elected DMK goverment; as in Karnataka which continues to be under Governor's rule. He waved a circular purported to have been sent by the Tamil Nadu Congress (I) Committee about the holding of State Assembly elections along with the parliamentary polls. His colleague Mr. V. Gopalasamy said: 'It is a diabolical move to topple a non-congress government'.

Another reason for Mr. Karunanidhi's lack of confidence is the sea change that had occured in the complexity of Tamil Nadu politics between January this year and now. While the Assembly elections early this year was a four-cornered contest, today it has emerged as a straight contest between the DMK-led front and an anti-DMK front spearheaded by a unified AIADMK and the Congress-I. Ms. Jayalalitha, more buxom than ever, about whose political future there hung a big question mark not long ago, has now bounced back into the arena with the kind of aplomb that characterized her cinema heroine days. One of her most surprising moves was not only to bring one of her most bitter foes, R.M. Veerappan, into the party but create for him a special slot in the party hierachy as joint General Secretary that virtually makes him No.2 – over the heads of old faithfuls like Thirunavukkarasu and deputy secretary Raghavanandam. The Congress-I-AIADMK alliance has also succeeded in attracting to its fold the 'Pattali Makkal Kadchi' (PMK) launched by the Vabniar Sangam leader Dr. Ramadas and a dissident section of Sivaji Ganeshan's 'Tamizhaga Munnetra Munnani' let by the TMM general secretary E.V.K.S. Ilangovan

The Prabhakaran Factor

Mr. Karunanidhi has also to contend with a simmering discontent among youth sections of his own party cadres which feel that his stand vis-a-vis the Eelam Tamils and particularly in respect of the LTTE has been equivocal and lacking in consistency and clarity. When unconfirmed reports began to circulate in Madras that LTTE leader Prabhakaran had been killed in a shoot-out with his deputy 'Mahatiya' in the Vabuniya jungles, agitated students in the state capital and other places took to the streets, demanding official word on such reports. Groups of students squatted on the road along the Marina beach blocking traffic for an hour. Students from various other colleges joined in the stir and boycotted classes. Reports of protests were also received from Coimbatore, Nagapattinam, Vridhachalam and other places. Posters appeared in many parts of Madras claiming that Mr. Prabhakaran was very much alive and not to be misled by false rumours. Copies of a Tamil daily – the 'Dinamalar', which carried in banner headlines on its front page what it described as an authoritative account of the circumstances in which Mr. Prabhakaran was killed were burnt at Madras and in Tirupattur in North Arcot district. All led to show what a powerful grip the LTTE leader had in the popular imagination of the youth in Tamil Nadu – a trend which many Indian political observers feel may not be to the liking of the DMK leadership, particularly Mr. Murasoli Maran who had always shown a dislike for the LTTE. But it must be said to the credit of Mr. Karunanidhi that once the student agitation began, he publicly deplored the work of the Indian news agencies like UNI and PTI, as well as the State-controlled Radio and TV in spreading the unconfirmed news of Prabhakaran's death and causing law and order problems in the state. He went further to say that suspicion had arisen in the public mind as to whether somebody had planned to kill the LTTE leader and was 'testing the waters' by circulating such reports. Two days later he told pressmen: 'My information is that Prabhakaran is alive', and it was his wish that he should live. Notwithstanding such gestures, it is difficult to resist the impression that an influential youth section of the DMK is getting increasingly radicalised especially on the Eelam Tamil issue and which could prove to be an embarrassment to the DMK leadership in times to come.

THE AUGUST 30 'BANDH'

Meanwhile, the all-India bandh for August 30, called by the Opposition parties demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi (this is being written two days before the bandh) can prove to be another challenge for the DMK in the state. Both the DMK-led alliance as well as the Congress-I-AIADMK Front appear to view the bandh as a run-up for the parliamentary poll. Already state-wide public rallies and meetings are being held for and against the bandh by both adversaries in apparent show of strength with an eye on the national elections which have yet to be announced. Schools and educational institutions are being closed for three days covering the day of the bandh. While a ruling party has the capacity to make the bandh a success, Mr. Karunanidhi's aim is to do so without adopting a confrontationist stance towards the Centre. This again shows a line of action not altogether consonant with the more aggressive mood of the other National Front partners. Another aspect of Mr. Karunanidhi's strategy that differentiates him from his National Front allies was evident in his Independence Day message on August 15. While highlighting the need for additional powers for the States, he was careful to add that his government stood for co-operation with the Centre, while it would continue to raise its voice for the rights of the states. All in all, the DMK position today seems to be one of having the cake and eating it too!

ROTARIANS AND POLITICIANS

'Whither Rotary?' – 'To Lunch' is an old joke that still gets around. But the Rotarians of South Madras are obviously made of sterner stuff; besides which they have the capacity to pack in a lot of humour along with feeding their gastronomical juices. A little bird whispers to us that the Hotel Chola

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Sheraton was the venue recently of a programme titled **'In Their Shoes'** at the weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Madras South. Guess who got into whose shoes? five Rotarians lined themselves up – one got 'into the shoes' of an Eelam Tamil militant leader with a fictitious name; another into that of a Tamil from Tamil Nadu; a third 'into the shoes' of the Prime Minister of India; a fourth into that of President Premadasa; and the fifth 'into the boots' of the IPKF chief. They all said their piece, the tongues that had savoured the Chola Sheraton chef's creations, now in the cheek. A Rotarian with an appropriate name got into the Tamil militant's shoes and made a brave declaration about the causes that led to their struggle, the birth of the movement, their goal etc. While the Rotarian who got into President Premadasa's shoes helpfully suggested that India could make better use of her armed forces in Punjab, Assam and elsewhere. The Rotarian with a name that was not Tamil who 'got into the IPKF chief's boots' sounded helpless and said they had to take orders from above, but showed a sneaky admiration for the LTTE who he said were of course their enemy. The Rotarian who got into the Indian Prime Minister's shoes proved very articulate. To begin with, he said: 'I am always for the poor and the downtrodden, therefore I refuse to get into shoes; instead I will get into only chappals. We are not for domination or conquest of our friendly, smaller neighbours. Look back at our record at Nepal and the Maldives. We only want to help the neighbours to uphold their sovereignty. . . Don't ever ask us where the Tamil militants got their training, arms etc. We are completely ignorant and innocent of it all. In fact our Navy patrolled the Palk Straits so efficiently that even a fly could not get across the waters. Even smuggling was completely stopped. We signed an accord with the then President of Sri Lanka. Thereafter we went in full force to disarm the militants in 72 hours and we did it. The handful now remaining there with arms are the puppets of a "foreign hand". We concede that the President of Sri Lanka is the Supreme Commander of our armed forces there, but how can we give the reins to an inexperienced President? We want to help him stabilise his position before we leave. That is why we are there. We will be there till our elections are over. Come what may, whether I am voted back to power or rejected we will leave only after the elections, certainly not before. . .'

This Rotarian said many more mouthfuls (remember, Whither Rotary: To Lunch) and was greeted by deafening applause. Visiting Rotarian Sundha who was called upon to offer comments had a poor appetite. He said: 'You all are fortunate enough to have a ringside view of the action. But we are the ones inside the ring!'

READERS FORUM

AMIRTHALINGAM

Abraham Lincoln, Mahatma Gandhi and Sheik Mujibur Rahman – these three leaders share some distinct similarities in their epoch-making public careers. All three are recognized as symbolic 'fathers' of their 'modern nations' – United States, India and Bangladesh respectively. These visionaries also share the fate of being assassinated by their own kinsmen. Now, Appapillai Amirthalingam also has joined this elite group of leaders who had the will and vision to lead the struggle for freedom of their nations and then being murdered by some deranged individuals belonging to their own ethnic group.

I still vividly remember an appearance of a poem in the **SUTHANTIRAN** (the weekly newspaper of the then Federal Party) sometime in the mid 1970s, with the title, 'Amirthalingam our Abraham Lincoln'. It compared the political careers and the struggles of both leaders. Now I wonder, whether the poet who penned those verses would have presaged the fateful ending of Amirthalingam at the hands of an assassin.

Call it coincidence (or not), in the final analysis, the political career of Amirthalingam did in fact show many resemblances to that of Lincoln.

1. Lincoln was the most esteemed and maligned of the American presidents. Similarly, Amirthalingam was the most esteemed and maligned among the Sri Lankan political leaders of this century. Both were admired and loved by their constituents, while at the same time, attacked on a partisan basis as the person most responsible for every major crisis which faced their nations when they held the position of some power.

2. Both were endowed with a mastery of rhetoric which endeared them to their supporters.

3. Both Lincoln and Amirthalingam were subjected to vitriolic attacks from the Opposition parties as well as from the radicals of their own parties.

4. Epithets such as 'timid', 'hotheaded', 'dictator' and 'political coward' were flung at Lincoln and Amirthalingam by their own party radicals who disagreed with them.

However, Amirthalingam differed from Lincoln in one character trait. While Lincoln (as well as Mahatma Gandhi) understood the value of silence and secrecy in politics, Amirthalingam did everything in an open fashion. Thereby, he exposed himself to physical abuse in the **Satyagraha** campaigns of 1956, 1958 and 1961. He (and his wife) were also accused of instigating the 1977 Sinhala aggression against the Tamils of Sri Lanka. While he was the Leader of the Opposition between 1977 and 1983, there was even a No-confidence motion against him in the Sri Lankan parliament. Among the parliamentarians of the ruling UNP, **only one sensible colleague, Shelton Ranaraja** voted against this nonsensical motion, while S.Thondman abstained from voting. All the other UNP members obeyed the orders of the party whip.

Like Mahatma Gandhi and Mujibur Rahman, Amirthalingam also had his share of incarceration for the cause he believed in. And like Gandhi, he also became easy fodder for cynicism and ridicule in the hands of politically biased journalists, commentators and cartoonists. One should only just glance through the pages of the partisan press of Sri Lanka from 1977 and tabulate the cartoons of Wijesoma, Opatha and Amitha to learn how Amirthalingam was derided for the views he stood for. A short, rotund figure in **verti and saalvai** with a **pottu** on his forehead who always gets mugged by a loyal 'Sri Lankan patriot', or who always was found hanging by the tail of a tiger – that has been the caricature of Amirthalingam in the Sri Lankan 'national' press.

Amirthalingam differed from Mahatma Gandhi in one significant manner. He was not a journalist or an author. So, he has not left behind any significant writings which could be passed on to posterity. What is left behind as his primary intellectual contribution remains buried in the Official Proceedings of the Sri Lankan National State Assembly (popularly known as Hansard). So that his contributions to the human rights problem in Sri Lanka are not distorted or belittled, efforts should be made to (a) compile the speeches made by Amirthalingam in the Sri Lankan parliament (1956-1970 period and 1977-1983 period); and (b) publish them in Tamil and English. That will be a memorable tribute for his four decades of public service.

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DAY OF NATIONAL MOURNING

A Public Meeting was held on 27.7.1989 at Pavarnar Hall, L.L.A. Building, Anna Salai, Madras in remembrance of the 53 Eelam Tamils massacred in Welikade Jail on 25th and 27th July, 1983, and nearly 25,000 Eelam Tamils who have lost their lives in the Eelam Freedom Struggle.

It was attended by nearly 200 people and I presided at the meeting. The following resolution was passed unanimously.

'This meeting requests Eelam Tamils around the world to observe July 27 every year as a Day of National Mourning in remembrance of the 53 Eelam Tamils massacred in Welikade Jail on the 25th and 27th Juy, 1983 and the nearly 25,000 Eelam Tamils who lost their lives in the Eelam Freedom Struggle.'

It was also the wish of the meeting that this day should not only be a Day of National Mourning but also a Day of Positive resolutions and follow-up actions to further the freedom struggle and progress of Eelam Tamils.

We will be very grateful if through the medium of your esteemed journal you bring this resolution to the notice of Eelam Tamils around the world and request individuals and Societies who are interested to contact us at the address below so that the Eelam Tamils National Day of Mourning may be better organised and observed in future years throughout the world.

S.A. David
President,
Gandhiyam,
Sri Lanka
No.1078, I Block, 19th Street,
West Anna Nagar,
Madras-600 040

LTTE-GOVT TALKS

The talks going on between the LTTE and Mr Premadasa are said to be proceeding satisfactorily. The LTTE consider him a man they could do business with and a certain amount of trust has developed between the two parties. Mr Premadasa has said that he will be able to control the LTTE after the IPKF vacate. Obviously there appear to have been some concessions made by the once unyielding LTTE who surprised the world by consenting to dialogue.

Mr Premadasa has always been talking of consultation, compromise and consensus and is anxious to remove the causes that led to the Tamil minorities demanding separation. He has said openly that with the obstacles and injustices presented to them it is no wonder that the Tamils demanded Eelam, he will have almost total opposition in the House of Parliament; including a majority of the opposition who have always obstructed any concessions or devolution to the Tamils. S W R D Bandaranaike and Dudley Senanayake had this problem and J R Jayawardene merely exploited what was there ingrained in the Sinhala psyche, just as Hitler did in Germany against the Jews.

Guarantees given by Mr Premadasa could never be sustained by his successors. Even now the entire Government and the opposing JVP and other parties are against granting autonomy to the Tamils.

It may be necessary to go with the flow, but we must always be wary of the fact that we will have to fight for our freedom and also keep it secure. Security is as valuable as food and shelter. Tamil Eelam wil never sleep easy in the night secure in the knowledge that they will not be attacked by their hostile Sinhala neighbours with a numerical and military superiority, who are even now colonising our homeland with a vengeance. It is obvious that we cannot hold our ground by guerilla warfare which is mainly a hit and run, delaying and nuisance effect type of warfare waged against an entrenched occupation force like the IPKF. For proper defence and attack operations we need conventional forces operating on land, sea and air. It is for this reason that the Afghan rebels have not been able to invade the city of Kabul, despite military aid from the US through Pakistan and are now training a new regular 'Islamic Army'.

So the question arises as to how we can keep our freedom without sufficient military superiority. I hope the LTTE will give this matter sufficient thought in their negotiations with the Sri Lankan Government.

Lt. Col Anton Nevins Selvadurai
Blenheim Court
Alsager
Stoke on Trent, UK

DR. SELBOURNE'S CONDESCENSION

I wish to make some comments on the views expressed by Dr. David Selbourne in the *Tamil Times* of Aug. 1989. While I share his apprehension about the way in which the TULF leader A. Amirathalingam met his death, I felt uncomfortable by the condescending tone and immoderation of language shown towards Sri Lankans by Selbourne. (Read for instance, 'civil libertarians to remind Sinhalese and Tamil of what would be civilised conduct, if they were capable of it').

Many may agree with Selbourne that the Sri Lankan government is composed of 'thieves, thugs and playboys'. But what he has hidden was the fact that the composition of clique which ruled the island (prior to its independence) for 150 years were also notable for 'thieves, thugs and playboys'. They represented His(Her) Majesty of Great Britain.

Dr. Selbourne also stated that, 'one of the marks of rationality and wisdom is to recognize that sometimes there are no solutions to certain problems. The Sri Lankan case is one such'. Is this a cosmetized version of modern-day revisionism to hide the plundering misdeeds of British colonialism? I would say that, other features of rationality and wisdom are to recognize the root cause of the problem and to ask the criminal who created the problem to pay for his misdeeds. The Sri Lankan ethnic problem was a British creation. To put it simply, the British colonialists did not leave the island in 1948, as it was when they began their colonial rule in 1802.

Since Dr. Selbourne has now disengaged himself as 'a partisan of the savage Tamil struggle', I wish that he would hereafter concentrate his efforts to study the sinister role of the British imperialists (between 1802 and 1948) which caused the Tamils to lose the political power they had previously for centuries. In the recently held non-aligned conference in Belgrade, the Libyan leader Col. Mohammer Quaddafi suggested that every colonial power should pay reparation to every other ex-colony. If only the self-righteous British can heed Col. Quaddafi's suggestion, what a windfall Sri Lanka will receive. At a nominal rate of 100,000 pounds sterling per day (considered as a mere pittance of what the tea brokerage companies like Liptons and Brooke Bonds sucked from Sri Lankans), Britain should pay 100,000 x 365 x 150 = 5475 million pounds sterling as reparation. will Dr. Selbourne campaign for this righteous cause among his influential colleagues? One is reminded of the proverb, 'it is better to light a candle than curse the darkness'. This reparation, if provided to the descendants of the victims, will at least erase a major portion of the colonial misdeed committed by the British to the indigenous Tamils and Tamils of recent Indian origin in Sri Lanka.

I am also concerned that while Dr. Selbourne vociferously criticising the action of Sri Lankan 'hoodlums' and 'gangsters', remains silent about the misdeeds performed by the British mercenaries and arms dealers. I wish he will spend his energy on identifying these British 'hoodlums' and 'gangsters' and suing them in the British courts for their crimes against the suffering Sri Lankan civilians. The civilians in Sri Lanka will ever be grateful if this is done.

Sachi Sri Kantha
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A Dance Occasion In Madras

Dance maestro **Adyar K. Lakshman;** *a Tamil Nadu politician active in the cause of Eelam Tamils* **P. Nedumaran;** *a celebrated figure in the Carnatic music world* **Dr. M. Balamurali Krishna;** *lead actor* **Jaishankar; Major Sundera Rajan** *of Tamil cinema fame; reputed Bharata Natya artiste* **Chitra Visveswaran.** *What has this assorted mixture of celebrities in common? As their diverse pursuits go, it would have been difficult to say, but they* **did** *have one thing in common recently. They were all present at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan auditorium at Mylapore, Madras on 12th August to watch an 8-year-old Sri Lankan Tamil girl dance her way into the hearts of everyone present. It was the Arangetram of* **Venothini,** *daughter of Dr. Indra Kumar and Shrimathi Vijayambigai Indra Kumar, directress of the London-based 'Vijayanarthanalaya'.*

Among those who could not be present but sent messages were the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu himself Dr. Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi and two illustrious names in the Bharata Natya world – K. Sankara Menon, President of Kalakshetra and V.P. Dhananjayan of Bharata Kalanjali. It is not given to every Bharata Natya debutante, 8-year-old or 18-year-old, Sri Lankan or Indian, to receive blessings from such a choice and formidable array of distinguished personalities. Wow Venothini!

Venothini commenced her programme with a Saraswathy Kavuthuvam in Saraswathy ragam, followed by a pure rhythmic composition of Adyar K. Gopinath. The dance choreography for the Hamsananathi Jathiswaram which followed was by little Venothini herself, perhaps illustrating the truth that art and creativity runs in the blood! Though Venothini rendered the Vachaspati raga varnam 'Velanidam poi cholladi sakhiye' with child-like aplomb, the theme of the song – the longing of the soul for union with the divine in the form of a love-lorn maiden pining for her lover – was something which one could not have expected a child to depict with the necessary depth. But the electrifying atmosphere that vocalist Madurai T. Sethuraman brought to the stage in what was his own music composition greatly helped Venothini to pass what is recognised as the hardest test for even a mature artiste – the Varnam.

VENOTHINI

The Padam 'Janaki Ramana' in Kapi ragam and the popular Keerthanam 'Nadanam Adinar' in Vasantha ragam were refreshing after the heavy Varnam and saw Venothini in a more relaxed mood. The grand finale to the programme was the Kunthalavarali Thillana of Dr. Balamurali Krishna who was the chief guest of the evening. In his short speech he said: . . .'Some fifty years ago a child artiste was creating history and now this child is creating history. Fifty years ago it was Balamurali Krishna and now it is Baby Venothini!!'

A very notable team provided the musical accompaniments : Madurai T. Sethuraman (vocal); V.A. Aravindakshan (vocal, and associated with the mother and guru Vijayambigai in the Nattuvangam); Adyar Sri Gopinath (mridangam); T.K. Padmanabhan (violin); and A.V. Unnikrishnan (flute).

What was perhaps the most eloquent gesture of Venothini on the stage, outside her repertoire (and completely unscheduled) was in reaching up to vocalist Sethuraman's cheek after the end of the programme and giving it an affectionate pat. Cheeky indeed, which left the ebullient singer himself pleasantly helpless!

Arjuna

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'TRAITORS' AND DEATH SENTENCES

I note with some satisfaction the nearly unanimous denunciation of the assassination of the two TULF leaders. We were also, quite rightly, reminded of equally regrettable and despicable killings during the past few years.

I believe that no liberation movement, however strong or popular, has the right to pass death sentences on members of rival liberation organisations and parties with different views or even defectors. But the sad truth is that killings are going on, hit-lists are growing longer and targets include not only 'enemies and traitors' but also potential rivals. The guilt lies not only with those who order and carry out the killings, but also with those who fail to denounce them in time.

It is in this context that it will be useful to remember that the first major political assassination in the post-independence history of Sri Lanka, namely that of S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike, was not followed by a wave of killings in the name of justice, revenge or anything else. But it is of significance to note that the first political assassination in north Sri Lanka led to a spiralling series of killings. What was striking about the foul murder of Alfred Duraiappah was the failure of the then dominant Tamil political party to do anything more than deny involvement in the murder. The weak response of the Federal Party – Tamil United Front leaders was as seen by the militant youth, who at the time enjoyed the patronage of the Tamil leadership, as a nod of approval. The Gandhyans of the TULF showed signs of serious concern only after their own acts of betrayal of the Tamil people and active collaboration with the UNP government during 1977-83 earned the wrath of the now stronger militants and destroyed the credibility of the parliamentary Tamil leadership.

I wish to end this note by quoting from a letter to the Tamil Times (August 1989) from Mr. P. Varothayasingham: 'Anyone who knows Sinhalese culture, history and way of thinking would know that, left to themselves the Sinhalese would probably destroy themselves. . . Did he mean the Sinhalese or Tamils?

S. Sivasegaram

London SW20

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Bharata Natyam Arangetram of Kumari Vasuky Sriskandarajah.

It is indeed fortunate that, in Britain in general and in Wimbledon in particular, the practice and experience of South Indian music and dance have grown so immensely over the past 40 years! It seems a far cry indeed from when I first heard Dikshitar's **Bala Gopala** *sung by Smt Leela Gopalan at our house in Hillside in 1949, and from when Ram Gopal and his troupe danced at the Wimbledon Theatre in July 1949.*

So, it was with delight and reminiscence that, together with my wife, I sat in the Wimbledon Civic Hall (now called Merton, I noticed!) on June 4 to witness Kumari Vasuky Sriskandarajah's Arangetram. The hall was packed, we were delighted to see: even in the 12 years since a Bharata Natyam recital there had formed part of Wimbledon's celebration of H.M. The Queen's Silver Jubilee, South Indian culture had grown in stature.

Vasuky is a disciple of Smt Subathra Sivadasan, of the Sri Ghanapathy Temple, Wimbledon, so this was truly a celebration of local talent.

Smt Subathra Sivadasan after obtaining her diploma in dance in Sri Lanka proceeded to India where she was fortunate to come under the renowned dance guru, Shri Adayar Lackshman and obtained diploma in dance and nattuvangam.

Vasuky is the sixteenth of Mrs. Sivadasan's students to receive the accolade of Arangetram and the first in Britain so to do. As such, she was taught in the Kalakshetra style, and it was interesting to me to see the differences between this and other styles such as Pandanallur.

At the age of 12, Vasuky has already achieved great poise and grace and an assurance that belies her tender years. She dances with great fluidity, with rippling, liquid movement, all delivered with an ebullient lightness that clearly stems from her guru's teaching.

Most elegant is her footwork – indeed on occasion Vasuky verily seemed to float across the stage, not touching the ground at all! All this was accompanied throughout – where appropriate – by brilliant facial **Abhinaya** *whereby the different* **Bhavas,** *Emotions, chased one another kaleidoscopically across her face. Transformations from the comic to the pathetic, from the heroic to the amorous, were achieved with lightning precision.*

A note of innovation was struck early in the programme which, after the Shree Ghanapathy Gowthuvam featured a Nirthianjali based on **Alarippu**, *the more usual invocation. There followed a Jatheswaram set in Gowri Manohari* **raga** *– an unusual one – that featured words as well as the usual syllables.*

The toughest part of the programme, the **Varnam**, *followed. Set in the* **raga** *Sankaraparanam, it was danced to a beautiful Tamil text that narrated various exploits of the Lord Vishnu, addressed by a maiden as her lover. I especially liked Vasuki's depiction of the spiteful crocodile which seized Gajendra's trunk. This in itself was interesting as much of the iconography, e.g. at Halebid, depicts the crocodile seizing the elephant by the leg. I always feel that Kipling had this story in mind when he wrote his* **Just So story** *on How the elephant got its Trunk (though the story itself is set in Africa!).*

The **Varnam** *afforded Vasuky full scope to deploy her versatility of emotional expression,*

VASUKY

and established firmly her skill in depicting rapid changes of mood. Again noteworthy in particular were her disgust and dismay portrayed during the episode of the Pandavas dicing their kingdom away.

After the interval, Kumari Vasuky first gave us three **Padams**, *the first of these being a Thalattu Lullaby, praising the child-god Lord Murugan. Vasuky showed great tenderness and love in this piece.*

The next **Padam** *was in praise of Karpakambikai, the goddess-consort of Lord Siva at Mylapore, Madras. She appeared there as a peacock, and Vasuky portrayed her with a most affecting grace and charm.*

The third **Padam** *was truly splendid, and was addressed to the Lord Siva. Prominent was the episode taken from the site Legend, or Sthalapurana, of the god and his consort at Madurai, the* **Tiruvilaiyadalpuranam,** *wherein the god takes the guise of a lowly cooly in front of Sundara Pandiyan, the King of Madurai. As with other stories, this was beautifully narrated for us beforehand by Kumari Nina Cambow who, together with Sri Wimal Sockanathan, compèred the programme. In this* **Padam**, *Vasuky matched her footwork in a splendid manner with the Mrdangam of Sri N.V. Balakrishnan when she was portraying the god Siva dancing.*

There followed a speech by the writer and his vote of thanks. Then came two final pieces, a **Viruttam** *in Ragamalika, and a most lively and tuneful* **Tillana** *in Kuntalavarali* **raga**. *Vasuky here showed a climactic joy and happiness that were truly bewitching, especially when one consider that three hours had elapsed since the commencement of her programme!*

Our thanks go to Vasuky's devoted and hospitable parents, Dr. and Mrs. Sriskandarajah for a wonderful evening, and for a most promising luminary of dance! **Nattuvangam**-*accompaniment was provided by Vasuky's Guru, Smt Subathra Sivadasan, and her support of her star-pupil and rapport with her throughout the recital were a delight for all to see.*

The music was superb. Vocal music was provided by Smt Sivasakthi Sivanesan, who studied at Central College of Karnatic Music, Madras, and also under Chittoor Sri Subramaniam, under whom the writer too had the privilege to study at Annamalai University in 1950. Also singing was Smt Renuka Shriananda, who holds an M.A. Music of the University of Madras. She sang a number of interesting and unusual items. Dr Lakshmi Jayan, a disciple of our great friend Sri Lalgudi Jayaraman, provided violin accompaniment in her accustomed pure and accomplished style. The Mrdangam was brilliantly played by 'Adaiyar Balu' – Sri N.V. Balakrishnan, and his rapport with Vasuky was a joy to witness. Dr. Thamotharam Nimalaraj, forsaking the Staff of Aesculapius for the Flute of Lord Krishna, gave a delightful flute accompaniment. **Sruti**-*drone was kept by Kum Sudarshini Pararajasingham and Kum. Sujithra Ambikapathy.*

We were given a fully informative brochure that was extremely well produced, and I was delighted to see the **Thevaram** *extracts included in it. Among messages of felicitation was one from Mrs. Sandra Buchanan, Headmistress of the Tiffin Girls' School, where Vasuky is a pupil. They are rightly very proud of so distinguished a student. Indeed, we were one and all touched by the privilege of witnessing the talent, poise and accomplishment in Bharata Natyam of Kumari Vasuky Sriskandarajah. We salute her, and wish her that bright future she so richly merits.*

Dr John R. Marr.

Appointed to Human Rights Tribunal.

Mr. Paul Nallanayagam, the well known Human Rights Activist, who is resident in Canada now has been appointed a part-time member of the Human Rights Tribunal Panel for a three-year term. This is the first time a Sri Lankan Canadian has been honoured in this manner. The Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada in his letter of appointment states, 'Your impressive professional qualifications and long standing commitment to human rights will no doubt render you an effective and valuable addition to the Panel. I am sure you will find that the experience will be rewarding as well, and that you will gain immeasurably from the opportunity to adjudicate important and precedent-setting human rights cases'.

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WEDDING BELLS

We congratulate the following couples on their recent marriage.

Kumarathasan *son of Mr & Mrs Kumarasamy, Kachchai Road, Chavakachcheri, Sri Lanka and* **Myvilli** *daughter of Mr & Mrs Mahalingam, Palaly Road, Kondavil East, Sri Lanka on 27.8.89 at Highgate Murugan Temple, London N6.*

Niranjan *son of Mr & Mrs S. Sivasubramaniam, 24 Orchard Grove, Edgware, Middx., U.K. and* **Yasothai** *daughter of the late Gnaneswaran and Mrs M. Gnaneswaran, 49 Courtlands Drive, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey, U.K. on 3.9.89 at Epsom Playhouse, Surrey, U.K.*

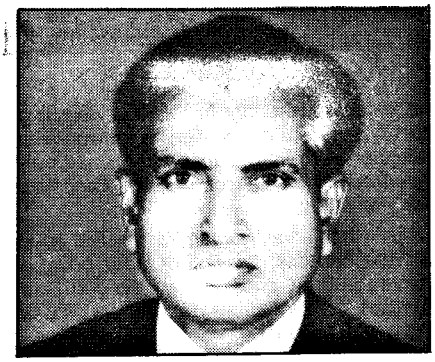
Thirurasa *son of the late Kumarasamipillai and Mrs P. Kumarasamipillai, 10 Seenivasagam Road, Jaffna, Sri Lanka and* **Anusha** *daughter of Mr T. Sangaralingem, Retired Principal, Colombo Hindu College and Mrs S. Sangaralingam on 3.9.89 at Highgate Murugan Temple, London N6.*

Rohan *son of Mr & Mrs R. Sathanandan, 32 Broadwater Road, London SW17 and* **Prabah** *daughter of Mr & Mrs S.D. Balarajah, 21 Haydon Park Road, London SW19 on 10.9.89 at Merton Hall, London SW19.*

Sureshparan (Berni) *son of Mr & Mrs S.N. Nadarajah, Manager, A. Baur & Co Ltd., Sri Lanka and* **Vathsala (Batchu)** *daughter of Dr & Mrs R. Thirunavukarasu, 101 Middle Leaford, Stechford, Birmingham, U.K. on 10.9.89 at Stanley Hall, London SE25*

OBITUARIES

Suppiah Mailvaganam *(69) of Chulipuram, Sri Lanka, formerly Director of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform Commission, Sri Lanka; beloved husband of Gnanaranjitham nee Gnanasundaram; brother of Sivaguru and Mrs Thavamani Kanagaratnam; father of Raguvaran (U.K.), Vanaja (Antigua), Ahilan (U.K.), and Sritharan (Jaffna), father-in-law of Pushpa and Vignarajah; grandfather of Gopi, Ramesh and Shankari passed away in Jaffna on 28.8.89 – 19 Devonport Gardens, Ilford, Essex IG1 3QQ.*



Mayilvaganam Velummayilum *J.P. U.M., Attorney-at-Law, former Chairman, Urban Council, Point Pedro, Sri Lanka, passed away on 30.8.89 in Point Pedro, leaving behind a host of constituents, friends and relatives. He is sadly missed by his loving wife, children and in-laws. Information received from his eldest son V. Thayanandarajah, 68b Grove Road, North Finchley, London N12 9DY.*

Kandiah Kumarathevan *(49) lately Senior Executive Officer, Commonwealth Secretariat, London; beloved husband of Karunathevi; father of Senthil; brother of Selvarajah (Singapore), Mrs Selvasaraswathy Arulampalam, Mrs Manoranjitham Kathiresampillai (both of Sri Lanka), Paramsothy (U.K.) passed away on 16.8.89 in U.K. – 92 Turner Road, Edgware HA8 6BH, U.K.*

IN MEMORIUM

In loving memory of our dad
T.J. Rajaratnam
(Retired High Court Judge)
Born 23.1.1919

Called to rest on 15.9.81

Gently with love your memory is kept
We who loved you will never forget
If memories bring us closer
We are never far apart
For you are always in our thoughts
And forever in our hearts

Sadly missed and lovingly remembered by your wife Arul, children Rohini, Renuka, Rajiv; sons-in-law Vijayan, Sriharan; grand-children Vasi, Ravi, Prathi, Jayanthy, Ajit.

In loving memory of **Mrs Rasamalar Kandiah** *(Retired teacher, Mahajana College, Tellippalai, Sri Lanka), on the First Anniversary of her passing away on 17th September 1988.*

Sadly missed and lovingly remembered by her children Sriskandarajah, Sriravikulan, Varathadchayani, Vanithamany, Verlkumar, Thulasibai and Anandanadesan; daughters-in-law Chandra, Theiva, Ranjani and Bhavani; sons-in-law Kanagabhavan, Sri Murugadas and Manohara and grand-children Thanuja, Shusha, Narayani, Thileepa, Shankar, Parthipan, Narmatha, Kapilan and Mayooran.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

October 7 *7.30 p.m. North London Sri Lankan Association presents 'Dance of the Year' at Porchester Hall, Queensway, London W2 5HS. For tickets Tel: 0727-50135.*

Oct. 15 *12 noon Mahajana College Old Students' Association Get-together, Lunch & A.G.M. at Lola Jones Hall, Greaves Place off Garratt Lane, London SW17 0NE. For tickets Tel: 0277-223981 & 01-841 5186.*

Oct. 29 *1.00 p.m. S.C.O.T. Deepavali Lunch at Lola Jones Hall, Greaves Place off Garratt Lane, London SW17 0NE. For tickets Tel: 01-422 8984.*

At Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, 4A Castletown Road, London W14 9HQ Tel: 01-381 3036/ 4608

Oct 6. *7.45 p.m. Vocal Concert by* **Vani Jairam** *with her Orchestra from India.*

Oct. 7 *7.00 p.m. &* **Oct. 8** *6.30 p.m. Karnatak Vocal by* **Maharajapuram Santhanam** *Violin: Muralidharan, Mridangam: Vellore Ramabhadran.*

Oct. 14 *7.00 p.m. Bharatanatyam Arangetram: Geeta Cambow.*

Oct. 15 7.00 p.m. Veena Arangetram: Sudharshini.

Oct. 28 *Veena Arangetram: Devaki & Yasoda.*

Oct 29 *6.30 p.m. Bharatanatyam by Swamamukhi with Musicians from India.*

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